

## Selections from Grace Emily Milford's 1882 diary

(kept at Dorset History Centre, Dorchester)

*In 1882, Grace was 25 years old. She was living at East Knoyle Rectory with her parents and sisters Beatrice, Ella, Mai, and Violet. Her brothers Lionel, Bobbie (Theodore), Reggie, Seymour, and Humphrey were at school or university.*



*This was the year in which she married 32-year-old clergyman Charles Coleridge Mackarness (below), eldest son of the Bishop of Oxford. She had first met him the previous year - at the wedding of her cousin Reggie Sumner to Charles' cousin Dorothy Coleridge, where she seems to have made an impression on him!*

*Grace was much involved with Bible classes, church activities, and Temperance/anti alcohol initiatives for young working men or teenage boys in her father's parish; she writes about Sunday school, night school, the Church of England Temperance Society, the Band of Hope, and also at length about helping send two young men, Albert and Sam, to Queensland, Australia, via an immigration centre at Crewkerne.*



*Charlie and Grace's wedding was in September 1882. After honeymooning in the Lake District and Scotland, they moved in November to Aylesbury, where Charlie was the new Vicar.*

### **Sunday 1 January**

I began the year well – so far - by being down & - so far – ready. All the family at home from Mother to Humphrey, had cards from Frank, & Mother, Reg. & I heard from him in our separate envelopes. We had a joint letter of thanks from Reggie Sumner for the wedding present (brass inkstand & match box) we sent him & Dorothy.

### **Wednesday 4 January**

... We worked at Christmas tree preparations. Caleb fetched a lovely tree from Knoyle House (spoken for by Father yesterday) & it was put in the schoolroom.

### **Thursday 5 January**

... I started by the 9.44 train for Brightwell, to stay with the Cunninghams': at Basingstoke I spoke to Mr Still. Later Bobbie joined me there, & we came together to Wallingford, changing at ? and Reading. Bobbie's box was lost on the way. Presently came Mabel, & later Mr Cunningham. Tea, and song trying in the school & schoolroom. Early dinner. The box did not come, but we managed so that Bobbie sang both the songs he was intended to, 'Mary Morrison' and 'The Fairy Jane' ...

### **Wednesday 11 January**

... We were grieved to hear of the death of little Johnnie Wigmore of scarlet fever, at Holloway, & that there was 21 cases at Little Lye ... Father took disinfectant to the school etc. I trust it will not spread ...

### **Thursday 12 January**

... We three girls went down the road, & to our disgust saw a young woman called Maidment who is nursing at Little Lye, walking in the village, going to the Post Office. We spoke to her across the road & said she oughtn't to be out, & said we should tell father: so he made arrangements for things being taken there, so that they shan't come to the village ...

### **Monday 16 January**

A very stupid post, one letter & one postcard ... We three girls worked at making carbolic powder bags.

### **Thursday 24 January**

... Lionel & Seymour left by the 9.44 train for Haileybury<sup>1</sup>, Seymour for the 1<sup>st</sup> time: he had never been to London either ...

### **Saturday 28 January**

Beatrice heard from Hermann<sup>2</sup>, sending two copies of a quartett [sic] for ladies' voices. A postcard came from Lionel telling of their safe arrival at Haileybury ... Jane Maidment wrote a note asking Mother to come down, so Father went, & heard that Edward Merchant had been drunk & cut open his wife's head with a teapot: however Father heard a very different tale from Edward in the evening, he said it was an accident about the teapot & that he wasn't drunk. Jane seems to be very exasperating ...

### **Friday 10 February**

After a long silence we heard from Alice Lawrence at last. Writing. Packing. Finally I left home at about 2 o'clock, picked up Miss (Jane) Alford & drove down to the station, passing my two Henrys on the road, and went up by the 2.33 train to London. I and another lady shared the carriage the whole way, & the time passed pleasantly, reading 'Villette'. Arrived at Vauxhall I looked out for Frank<sup>3</sup>, but not seeing him I let a porter get me a hansom & after considerable difficulty I arrived at 9 Courtland Terrace: the cabman couldn't find it for some time. Mrs Webster was in bed with a cold, & while I was in her room Frank came in, having missed me by a few minutes at the station. Tea! Later a tete-a-tete dinner with Frank, after which we sat with Mrs Webster (who was up) in her room, & later Frank & I played backgammon & talked, in the drawingroom.

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<sup>1</sup> Haileybury College in Hertfordshire

<sup>2</sup> William Herrmann David, who Ella married in 1887

<sup>3</sup> Frank Webster. Probably a relative, as Grace spends time alone with him.

## Saturday 11 February

... The Hornton carriage came (George looking such a dear little fellow in his coat & hat & cockade) & Frank & I drove in state to Burlington House to see the Old Masters. Some I liked but a good many I didn't care for...

## Sunday 12 February

Frank & I went down to the stables to see the horses some time after breakfast, & then to Hornton where we only saw Dora & Arthur, as Mr R Webster was away, & Emily in bed. A very nice house. Back to No.9 & presently Frank & I went to 11.30 service at St Mary Abbot's... I went to the 4 o'clock service. The Industrial girls formed the (afternoon) choir,



GENERAL ROBERT MACLAGAN, LATE ROYAL (BENGAL) ENGINEERS  
As an LL.D., Edinburgh University.

& the Vicar, Mr Glyn preached. I didn't take a fancy to his looks. Coming out I saw Gen. MacLagan<sup>4</sup>, so I went up & spoke to him, & then I found Mrs McLagan & Bob there, too (The MacLagans were so friendly & nice)

## Monday 13 February

... Mrs Webster, Frank & I dined at Hornton (we ladies going in a cab) with Mr Richard Webster, his stepbrother, Vyner Calthrop<sup>5</sup> & Mrs Webster. George helped wait. Music in the evening, principally from Mrs Webster & me. I took a fancy to V. Calthrop – a lad of 21 – though I believe he is rather a ne-er do well. He & I had a little chat at the last alone in the drawingroom.

## Wednesday 15 February

I was down first. A valentine (sent on) from Reg. One from Seymour (I heard later) at home. Vyner Calthrop came while we were at breakfast, & went off with Frank to the City. I went shopping with Emily Webster. Wrote & read. While we were still over lunch Avice arrived with Vyner Calthrop who had been to meet her. He stayed on a long while, part of the time talking to me alone in the diningroom. Finally he went, & Avice & I shopped. Home, read, dressed. Vyner arrived in good time for dinner before going to the opera to hear 'Mascotte'. He, Frank, Avice & I went in the carriage. A vulgar thing was going on when we got there, but 'La Mascotte' was delightful. I began by sitting between Frank & Vyner, but Avice changed places with Vyner as she felt the draught: I was very sorry. Very pretty music & scenery, but I wish the women wouldn't dress as men. Back in a cab: Vyner wanted Frank & Avice to go in one & he & I in another! Home to supper after a very pleasant evening. Vyner came too: I am afraid he is not a good boy, but he is a very dear lad. I said goodbye when he said goodnight, but he said he should come tomorrow.

<sup>4</sup> Probably General Sir Robert MacLagan 1820-1894

<sup>5</sup> Peyton Vyner Calthrop 1860-1903

### **Thursday 16 February**

Vyner came up & sat with us while we had breakfast: dear lad I was so pleased to see him. He sat by Avice & me. Finally he & France came up to my room for my box, which Vyner carried down a good part of the way. Then he wished me goodbye: I daresay I shall never see him again, but I am very glad to have met him: I do think him the dearest lad. H wanted to know (the night before) if he was to break his leg, would I stay & nurse him, & then he & I could go to the theatre together! He has been a sailor, & now he is going out tea planting to India. So goodbye to him, & soon after to Avice & Mrs Webster, & then Frank & I drove to the station (Waterloo) & he saw me off for home by the 10.45 train, after a very pleasant visit. Of course Byner & the ?Maclagans had much to do with the enjoyment, but the Websters were very kind ... Mother & we 4 went to Semley for the concert, which went off very well. Mai made her début in a trio with Beatrice & me. We 3 sang solos, B & I a duet, LKH Ella & I a trio, & I accompanied LKH in ?a song. The choir & Mr Hilton sang glees, & Mr Hilton read out of 'Pickwick'. A full room.

### **Friday 17 February**

... Father told us at dinner that he had seen Albert & had a talk with him: he means to join the CETS. 16 at class ... Albert was there; he came in with Wilby. ... After class we kept Albert back. Beatrice came in & we had a nice talk with him, dear boy. He is so tall & nice looking. He had had Beatric's letter, but owing to some mistake in it, it wasn't sent. He seems so saddened, & so trying to be different: we was put to higher work after 3 months, mfor good conduct. He spoke so nicely. I believe this has been a turning point in his life, & for good. (He evidently prayed when he first came to his seat. I didn't know if he hd [sic]forgotten, bt we think he mt have done it purposely.)

### **Sunday 19 February**

... I had a splendid class in the morning as regards those who came, John & Joe, William, Edwin, George, Jack, John Burbidge, & Albert: oh I was thankful to see him: I sent him a message on Saturday night by Jack, to say how glad I should be to see him if he liked to come, & he came. Dear lad. He stayed behing to ask me to get him a Bible ... There was a nice conngregation on the evening ... Albert came both morning & evening.

### **Tuesday 21 February**

Ella heard from Bobbie. We heard from Mr Richardson that Reg has almost certainly got measles, & the 2<sup>nd</sup> post brought a letter from Frank about it too ... Beatrice & Ella went to take a feeding cup for Sanger at Milton (he died next day), & had a talk with Ron Smart about Henry: he seems to have broken on the Saturday not Monday. She cried talking to them, poor thing... Violet & Humphrey acted. Bell ringing. Marionettes & comic songs in the ? Room at the Black Horse.

### **Wednesday 22 February**

Mother heard again from Frank, & also from Mrs Richardson. Reg has measles for certain, but so far is going on well ... In the afternoon Father, Mother, Beatrice, Mai & I went to the Maidments, & then Mother & we girls went on to Upton, where we 3 went to the Thornes', Arnolds', Smalls', & Chapel ? There were plenty of men working at the quarry, but we couldn't distinguish Albert. (We passed Bob.) We got flowers, & I (principally) made a wreath for Uncle Ridley. Service at 7, & a very good congregation, including 9 of my boys, Henry, Charles, Wilby, Jack, Albert, John Howell, William & Frank. James Snook & Albert Toogood were there, also representatives of all the farmers, etc!

### **Thursday 23 February**

Father & Mother left by an early train, before we were up, for Hambleden for Uncle Ridley's funeral: they took our wreath with them. Sunday lesson ideas. Beatrice & Mai went to see old Allen, & took Albert's & Bob's Temperance cards ... We four got violets (garden) & primroses & sent a tin full by post to Bobbie: he wanted some ...

### **Monday 27 February**

I had a 2 ½ sheet letter from Frank, & Ella heard from Reg from the Sick House, where he is not allowed to get up. I helped give Violet her lessons. A rainy day. We sang trios etc. I read some geology before lunch ... Night school ... The boys were very talkative: they told me that Edwin had had an accident in the Black Horse Yard; someone threw part of a pintpot, it hit the wall & then glanced off & cut his eyebrow, making it bleed a great deal. Albert & others at the Reading Room.

### **Tuesday 28 February**

... I went in the afternoon to see after Edwin Allen, & found he was gone to work. Mrs Allen wanted very much to make us taste some parsnip wine! but we wouldn't. Band of Hope meeting; a very uproarious one as regards the small boys ... We were disgusted to hear that a woman is to speak next Sunday at the chapel.

### **Wednesday 1 March**

... Poor George Ford looked so miserable, he is ill & depressed, the result of all the ranting. Father had a note from Bobbie to say that New Coll. Is Head of the River (at present) in the Torpids.

### **Thursday 2 March**

Mother, Beatrice, Ella, Mai, & I left home rather before 11, in the close carriage, for Salisbury. We took some sandwiches with us. Arrived in Salisbury we did some shopping, & then went to the training College where the Ambulance Lectures were to be held. Ladies gradually assembled, & Mother left before the Lecture began ... A young man lectured very interestingly, & there were 2 small boys to be practised upon! We each had a bandage & had to practise slings etc on our neighbour, then the man came round to see if it was right. We

took notes. Altogether we much enjoyed the lecture. Tea at the Three Cups & so home. Night School. 8 boys. Beatrice & Ella took it. Harry Fletcher was there, & Father kept him back to speak about his behaviour in Church!

### **Friday 3 March**

There was an attempt made to assassinate the Queen by a man called Maclean. I was delighted at getting a very nice letter from Alfred Barnes: he has kept his pledge I am glad to say ...

### **Sunday 5 March**

Father gave thanks for the Queen's safety from the assassin ... Communion Sunday: my dear John [Burbridge] stayed, & we knelt side by side... Not a very large congregation, perhaps because of the woman preacher at chapel.

### **Tuesday 7 March**

Beatrice & Mai went to see about Charles Feltham having broken, & had a talk with his father & mother: it seems to have been a sudden craving, yielded to. Beatrice wrote a note, asking him to come down in the evening ... Ella, Mai, & I went down to Prospect & welcomed Reg who came from Winchester for change, after measles. While he was having a Condy bath Beatrice arrived ... Charles Feltham did come down in the evening, & Beatrice went out to see him: she had a talk with him & he signed a paper renewing his pledge: she gave him a manual & prayed some of the prayers with him. God grant he may keep his promise.

### **Saturday 11 March**

I woke up to find myself voiceless, so I stayed in bed till 11 o'clock & had on linseed poultices & took remedies. Fire in my room We heard from Beatrice of her safe arrival: Alan<sup>6</sup> was coming to Buriton today. Concie Heywood's engagement to Mr Butler is broken off ...

### **Tuesday 14 March**

Alan preached at Buriton & Petersfield on Sunday Beatrice told us: she likes him of course, & also Lothian as much as ever ... A glorious day. Reg got us moss, & Mai & I picked primroses & points japonica, & between us (2) made a wreath for Mary Anne Marchant who was buried in the afternoon ... A nice letter from Bobbie: he has been to breakfast with the Warden 4 times since he has been up<sup>7</sup>: an unprecedented number of times. Read 'Garfield'.

### **Sunday 19 March**

... The 'but' in my [Bible] class was John & Joe not being there; they were late, & John Burbidge was absent to. But the very first to come in was my dear Albert, & oh I was glad to see him ... I had a little talk with Albert afterwards (he stayed back for a prayerbook for

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<sup>6</sup> Alan George Sumner Gibson, Grace's first cousin. Later Coadjutor Bishop of Cape Town.

<sup>7</sup> At New College, Oxford

Bob:): dear lad, he wants to be confirmed this summer, he told me so of his own accord: of course it must be managed.

### **Thursday 23 March**

A nice post for me; both nice letters: Avice told me that Vyner sailed for India about a fortnight ago, in the 'Roma': they had heard from him from Gibraltar ... Ella & I went to Mrs ?Seear's etc with bound magazines, & the petition against the Deceased Wife's Sister's bill.. We met a poor man who told a sad story, of wanting work etc, so we gave him 6d ... Albert had what might have been a bad accident at the quarry: some of the sand fell: he was nearest, & it came on his legs – 1 or both: he was got out but his leg was all numb. This was yesterday; a mercy he was not more hurt ...

### **Friday 24 March**

I heard from Reg, sending a card of Athletics: Frank won a number of things besides the mile.... Violet & Humphrey wrote to Alan, sending 5 3 ¼ which they had collected for him to take out with him ... Father came back from Steeple Langford, bringing some fish with him. Novello music came yesterday. 1<sup>st</sup> Friday without class ...

### **Saturday 25 March**

Stores. Bessie went away for a holiday, & Blanche Brockway came as a little stopgap. Sunday lessons. Beatrice went to see Annie Whibberly, & Mai took Violet out for a ride on Prince to her great delight ... We four girls went down to Sedgely (in the open carriage) to the Oldfields' for an ambulance practice ...

### **Monday 27 March**

I had a nice, long letter from Frank telling all about Athletics: he has won 7£ worth of cups ...

### **Wednesday 29 March**

... I had such a nice letter from Laura<sup>8</sup>, sending me two very sweet photographs of herself to choose from: Mr Mackarness<sup>9</sup> had been staying at Rochester & asked after me (again): Laura told me very nice things about him, he is a teetotaler for one thing.

### **Friday 31 March**

Bobbie left by the 9.44 train for London, he was to go to the Sports, to the Lyceum in the evening, sleep at the Ellertons', see the boat race tomorrow, & go down to Haileybury for the Singing Competition & Sunday ...

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<sup>8</sup> Laura Gertrude Peake nee Ainslie, Grace's friend

<sup>9</sup> Charles Coleridge Mackarness, her future husband

### **Friday 7 April (Good Friday)**

A lovely day. Lionel went over to Fonthill<sup>10</sup> & took the two services, morning & afternoon. I only [sic] Albert at my Bible Class, so we talked, & then read together, found some references etc, & then I closed with prayer. I wrote his name in his Bible afterwards. The poor workmen at the Mansion had to work all day, & some or all at the Brick Kiln. Some people only gave their men ½ a day ...

### **Sunday 9 April (Easter)**

We passed Albert & Sam (as well as others) twice. The 2<sup>nd</sup> time Beatrice & Mai stopped & spoke to him & Sam, & found that they are both going to Queensland next month! Sam had been going to America, but now is going with Albert. We shall so miss Albert. A lovely day.

### **Thursday 13 April**

Albert came for his Confirmation preparation: I went out & gave him a book to look at while he was waiting. After he had been with Father, Father brought him into the schoolroom where we 4 & WHD<sup>11</sup> were as he'd brought a dormouse which he had caught. Seymour had it: such a beautiful little creature. Hermann brought a setting of 'Abide with Me' for 4 female voices, composed by himself.

### **Friday 14 April**

... Hermann sat with us in the schoolroom. He & Bobbie left for Oxford by the 2.33 train: two dear lads ... Finally we adjourned to the school. Mr Hilton, the Wilkinsons, Lionel, Beatrice, & I were the performers, & the Concert went off very well. Beatrice & I were encored in 'The better land' & 'Across the river'. Lionel sang 'The ?Portillion' very well indeed. I sang 'The Spanish Boat Song'.

### **Saturday 15 April**

... Father, Mother, Beatrice & I went to an Electric Light lecture at Pyt House ...

### **Wednesday 19 April**

Father, Lionel, Ella & I went in to Salisbury by the usual train, for the Synod: we travelled from Tisbury with Mr Kemble, who was very pleasant. We went & came back 3<sup>rd</sup> class, I confess I do not care for it ...

### **Thursday 20 April**

... Mother heard from Mrs Glyn, & she told us that Charles Glyn is going to be married to a person with whom he has lodged in London; not in his own rank of life ... Alan was to sail today for Kaffraria<sup>12</sup> ...

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<sup>10</sup> Rectory-based school for young gentlemen in Fonthill Gifford, Wiltshire, owned by the Radcliffe family

<sup>11</sup> William Hermann David, who later married Grace's sister Ella

<sup>12</sup> In South Africa



### **Sunday 23 April**

... Albert came to Father in the evening, & then Ella & Mai had him into the schoolroom & wished him goodbye: as they let him out at the door he said "I shall never forget you": dear lad.

### **Monday 24 April**

Lionel left for Oxford, where he was to take his MA. Packing preparations went on. Father left by the 12.58, as he had to go into Salisbury, & Ella & Mai followed by the 2.33, were to join him there, & go on to London, & Harwich, & cross by night from Harwich to Rotterdam, & go for a tour in Holland & Belgium ...

### **Monday 1 May**

I had Albert & Sam in the evening, and gave them a little teaching about the Holy Communion. Afterwards we had a talk about Queensland business. B & I had sent ?15 16 to Crewkerne by early post for Albert's passage, to add to his 1£ already there.

### **Tuesday 2 May**

... We sent off 1£ more to Crewkerne, as 1£ is wanted for his ship's kit. ... Coming home we met several workmen, among them Gibbs, Truss and Baker, who touched their hats, & Bellinger who nodded! Much to our disgust.

### **Wednesday 3 May**

... Beatrice heard from Mr S Clarke, the Emigration Agent, Crewkerne, & as there had been a vacancy for men in the 'Roma', to sail on the 10th, we telegraphed to him about it. He telegraphed back, & there is a chance of them going by that, & not having to wait for the 'Almora', sailing June 7<sup>th</sup>... I was to have had Albert and Sam for teaching about Holy Communion, but only Albert came. I'm afraid Sam doesn't really care about these things, & also he is shy, but I was so sorry he had stayed away. Still it was really nicer having Albert alone. He fully means to stay on Sunday, dear lad. I gave him a book on Holy Communion from Father, & also 'Thoughts for working days' from myself. I read him the letter & telegram from Mr Clarke. He *is* a dear boy.

### **Thursday 4 May**

At about 9 o'clock Mother, Beatrice, & I started for Warminster, taking Albert to the Confirmation at Christchurch. We drove to the church 1<sup>st</sup>, & found out the Confirmation was to be at ½ past 11, then to the Vicarage, but finding the Philippses and the Candidates were gone, we drove back to Church, & went in. Albert sat on the end of a seat with some of Sir James' boys, & we in a corresponding seat at the side: I was nearest to him. There were 100

or more confirmed by Bp Tozer<sup>13</sup>. The answer 'I do' was all together, but we heard Albert's voice ... There were a good many hymns, processional & others, 'Soldiers of Christ' for one ... The actual laying on of hands was done at the rails ... Albert behaved beautifully, dear lad. After service, he came with us into the town, & we left him at the Magnet Cocoa House, while we had lunch at the Phillippses ... As we drove home we came in for another hard storm. We stopped at the bottom of the last hill, & Albert branched off home. I think he must have felt going to Warminster, as he was taken there, I fancy, after being taken up [arrested?]: he was taken up at Longbridge. This has been a very different going to Warminster.

### **Saturday 6 May**

(James came to see Mother last night, he went to his place at Brookwood near Alresford on Wednesday, but came back next day, as it was so horrid, bad place to sleep in, untidy, swearing grooms etc.) Beatrice & I went down to Henstridge by the 8.52 train, to spend the day with the Ainslies. We saw & talked to Capt. Vesey at Semley & Templecombe, & found him exceedingly pleasant: he saw us into a carriage at both places. Kathie, Nellie, & Cecil met us, & my dear Laura came out into the road near the Vicarage. Mrs Ainslie & Maurice were at home, but Mr Ainslie was away. Talk, walking about & photographs etc. in the morning. Laura gave me a photograph of her husband. She showed me 3 of Mr Mackarness. He seems to have taken a fancy to me at the wedding & to like to hear about me from Laura. He has twice (I think it is) asked to be remembered to me. We 2 talked a good deal about him as well as other things ... Music ... At intervals in the day I had talks with Laura: it was so nice to be with her again. Finally we left after a pleasant day, by the 6.57 train from Templecombe ...

### **Saturday 6 May**

... Beatrice also heard from Mr Clarke, a perplexing letter, but I hope the boys may go in the 'Roma' still: he said nothing about Sam ... Mai's note sending money for the bodices has been sent to Gloucester! I suppose to Harry's relations.

### **Sunday 7 May**

A lovely day. I had only 3 boys in the morning, Albert of course, Jack, & George. I gave Albert one of my photographs ... Mr Ramsay took the service nicely enough, but his sermons were unsuitable partly. Charles stayed to the Holy Communion, & for the 1<sup>st</sup> time I didn't kneel by him (Beatrice did), as I went down the church nearer to Albert, & knelt in the last row at the Communion rails, between him & my John: Henry Lampard being on John's other side. I am thankful that Albert has become a Communicant ... I had Albert (for the last time), Henry, & Charles, John & Joe in the afternoon. Beatrice & I had a talk with Albert afterwards ( B gave him a text he has done for him: I was out of the room then): I looked out trains & we talked matters over ... At abt 8, Albert & Sam came to say goodbye. We had Sam in 1<sup>st</sup> (from the room) to the schoolroom, & gave him from us 4 a writing case, & 'Steps to Xtian

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<sup>13</sup> Perhaps William George Tozer 1829-1899, though Wikipedia calls him a 'colonial Bishop'

Manhood', & talked to him & finally said Goodbye. He was v grateful for all done for & given to him. After he had gone, we had our dear Albert: we gave him a writing case from us 4. It was hard to say Goodbye but it had to be done: he sent his 'kind love to Mr Milford & the young ladies'. Later he came back to know if there was any paper to show, for tho' Sam's passage was taken, Albert's was uncertain, & only Sam had a paper. We cd only give letters from Mr Clarke.

### **Monday 8 May**

... No letter from Mr Clarke: we were somewhat in despair. Then came the message that Albert wanted to see us, & there he was, on his way to the station, to leave with Sam for Plymouth by the 10.32. We had no letter for him, but sent off (Caleb with) a telegram asking Mr Clarke to meet him at Crewkerne, & give him a paper for his passage. So we wished him Goodbye again, not knowing if he wd reappear or not ... To our extreme delight Beatrice heard from Mr Clarke, that with much trouble, he has got a ticket for Albert to go by the 'Roma'. He said he cd go on Tuesday & he (Mr Clarke) wd meet him at Crewkerne & tell him where to go at Plymouth etc: however I hope he will have got our telegram & gone to meet him today. We were thankful. B heard from Lionel & Bob. & Reg this morning. We wrote to the boys to the 'Roma', & B wrote a grateful letter to the good Mr Clarke ... We went to the Matthews' to tell about Albert & had a delightful visit ... Mdlle ?Streiff had arrived when we got back: Mother met her: she seems very nice. (At James' wish – we advertised for him in the Guardian: we saw him in the village.)

### **Wednesday 10 May**

The 'Roma' sailed from Plymouth, for Queensland

Beatrice & I went over to Fonthill to lunch with the Radcliffes, & took some roses to Alice: she was so pleased. After lunch (which only the ladies had), Walter & I played Ashton<sup>14</sup> & Beatrice at lawn tennis: we each won a sett [sic]. The brothers were so nice ... I had a letter from my dear Albert from Plymouth, such a nice one: he certainly knows we are (I am) his friend(s). Beatrice heard from Mr Clarke: he did meet the boys at Crewkerne & went a little way with them, & told them what to do etc. He is 76!

### **Friday 12 May**

... A telegram had come in the morning from Father, saying we were to come to meet the 5.13 train ... We sowed mignonette in our border. Choir practice ... The travellers<sup>15</sup> arrived safely. They gave us all presents, mine being a dear little cup & saucer & some lace ...

### **Sunday 14 May**

I missed my dear tall brown figure marching in punctually to my Bible Class, & often thought of him, & I think of Sam too.

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<sup>14</sup> Walter (1847-1923) and Ashton (1856-1929) Radcliffe

<sup>15</sup> Canon Milford ('Father'), Ella and Mai had been on a three-week trip to Holland and Belgium

### **Monday 15 May 1882**

Violet heard from Reg and Beatrice from Frank. We looked into money matters, and wrote for dress materials etc. ... I read The Ogilvies which Walter Radcliffe lent me ... I do not like it.

### **16 May 1882**

I heard from Mr Wilson again proposing a cricket match between our Club & Salisbury Temperance Club.... We girls spent a great part of our morning in overhauling our wardrobe ... Father and Mother went over to West Knoyle to congratulate Mr Inman<sup>16</sup> on being made Rector of Gillingham.

### **17 May 1882**

A letter from Alan, on board the 'Dunbar', was sent for us to read.

### **18 May 1882**

Early service; 15 there. I thought so of my dear lad Albert, by whom I knelt last time at Holy Communion. We worked at our Sunday lessons. The children had a holiday, being Ascension day; Fräulein's idea first, thinking it the natural thing. A German band came, & in the evening an Italian with a concertina.

### **Friday 2 June**

My eye was bad. However I wrote, chose the hymns, & did my morning Sunday lesson before lunch ... In the afternoon I went in with Mother to Shaftesbury to Dr Wilkinson's about my eye, and he took out of it some little bits of wood.: I daresay it was originally one piece, but it broke off into bits as he cut it out. It was a pretty painful business, but I was thankful to have it done ... next day my eye was nearly well.

### **Sunday 4 June**

I had a few lines from Laura asking me to come on the 14<sup>th</sup> for a Choral Festival on the 15<sup>th</sup>... Marie (Fräulein) was taken bad in church, faint, so mother took her out ...

### **Monday 5 June**

To my exceeding delight I found a letter from Albert on my plate: such a nice letter, dear lad, posted at Port Said. There is no service on board, but he reads his Bible. Sam sent his love, but didn't think it worth while to write as Albert was writing.

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<sup>16</sup> Canon Edward Inman

## Tuesday 6 June

...My eye was no better, so kind folks made me a green shade which I wore all day... I made biscuits in the kitchen. Fan, our dog, is a favourite with us now, but Huppy is afraid of her ...

## Wednesday 7 June

Mother heard from Mr Ellerton; he is going to write to me later, but said the tune had arrived safely. I wore the shade Mrs Du Boulay gave me, and was read aloud to nearly the whole morning by different people, from 'Sunrise'<sup>17</sup> by [William] Black: it is very interesting ... A telegram was sent off in the morning to Heywood, to make an appointment with Mr Critchett, an oculist [sic], for tomorrow: he telegraphed back that the appointment was made, & asked us to lunch. (I don't suppose he knew who.)

## Thursday 8 June

Mother & I had breakfast at an early hour, and soon after ½ past 6 Beatrice saw us off for the station, & we left by the 7.3 train (7.1 it gets in) for London. My eye was very uncomfortable on the journey. We travelled up from Salisbury with Admiral Fulford<sup>18</sup>, who was very pleasant & nice. From Waterloo we drove to 21 Harley St, to Mr Critchett the oculist's. After waiting sometime my turn came, & nothing could have been kinder than Mr Critchett, & also his son, who took another tiny bit of wood from my eye. I put my shade on again, & Mother & I drove to 14 Albert Place, Victoria Rd to lunch with Heywood<sup>19</sup>. He was not in, but soon arrived, & we had lunch together. Afterwards Mother went out for an hour or so, & I sat in a comfortable chair in the studio & dozed or talked while Heywood worked. Mother came back & later she & I had tea, & then Heywood saw us off in a hansom for Waterloo: he is a dear fellow. There was a friendly man in the train who gave Mother his card, 'Councillor Whitaker', so that we cd write to him if we ever need (gratis) a wonderful eye ointment. Home to find Bobbie safely arrived. ? FGT wrote a note to Beatrice, sending a photograph of Ruskin he had promised her.

## Friday 9 June

My eye was better, but I wore a shade over it still. I had an answer to my advertisement for James, & wrote a reply with my eyes shut, which Ella copied out for me & I signed. Charlotte came down about it to see me (I sent for her) & later James himself. Mother, Mrs Graves & Mai read aloud to me from 'Sunrise'...

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<sup>17</sup> A 'novel of international intrigue', written in 1881

<sup>18</sup> Admiral John Fulford 1809-1888. Commanded HMS Ganges and other vessels

<sup>19</sup> George Heywood Maunoir Sumner 1853-1940, Grace's first cousin. 'Originally an English painter, illustrator and craftsman, closely involved with the [Arts and Crafts movement](#)' - later an expert on the archaeology, geology and folklore of the [New Forest](#) and [Cranborne Chase](#) (Wikipedia)

## **Sunday 11 June**

I had large classes, 9 & 14 ... I kept my dear John back to ask him about joining (our branch of) the CETS<sup>20</sup>: I think he very likely will: he has been a teetotaller for 9 years ... in the evening Harry Allen stayed behind for a CETS hymnbook & medal, & Beatrice had kept Henry Smart, so I gave him a fresh bit of blue ribbon<sup>21</sup>...

## **Monday 12 June**

... Father went to a clerical meeting at West Knoyle & Bobbie to Fonthill where he played lawn tennis. I wrote about a place for James in the afternoon. Ella & I went to the school & then to the Pearces' to see William Noice: I had had a nice note from him at lunch, saying he was very weak etc, & how thankful he shd be if I cd get him a ?light place. He looked very wretched ...

## **Wednesday 14 June**

.. we went & had a long talk with Reade: of course the usual thing – money – was at the bottom of his breaking. The final result was that Reade has promised to keep on being a total abstainer, & if he things of breaking he will come & talk to us ...

## **Friday 16 June**

We copied out hymns & songs for the CETS Meeting. Ella, Bob, & Mai went over to lunch & play lawn tennis at Fonthill. I went up to see old Henry Elliott. We waited lunch till 2, as Father went to meet Ben Hoskyns<sup>22</sup> by the 1.35. He arrived safely. He & Father went for a walk after lunch ... Beatrice & helped get ready the school. Ben made himself at home, had nursery tea etc. The Fonthill party came back. Early dinner. CETS Meeting at 8 (nominally) & aplendid meeting it was, numbers of men & boys ... Haymaking I expect kept some away. The hymns & songs went beautifully, & it was a capital plan having papers to give round as well as books. Ben's address was beautiful, earnest, stirring, interesting, & to the point<sup>23</sup>: he was for total abstinence ... Poor Marie wanted to join but didn't like to ask , because she was not a member of the Ch. of Eng: she was very sad & upset however, she is to be admitted. Music on the landing. Ben is a very dear, nice, good fellow.

## **Saturday 17 June**

... Packed. Wrote Temperance cards. We girls wore a bit of blue ribbon. Bob, Ben, & sisters played l.t. Mai, Huppy & I had lunch together, & they came with me to the station & saw me off by the 12.58 train, for Rochester: we stopped at the 'pike' house & left some milk for (&with) Rose. ... Ben was to leave by the 2.33 train ... I got to Waterloo by the 4.43, & after

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<sup>20</sup> Church of England Temperance Society

<sup>21</sup> Symbol of the Temperance movement

<sup>22</sup> Benedict George Hoskyns 1856-1935, Anglican priest

<sup>23</sup> This is the most enthusiastic praise of a sermon or address in the whole diary! I wonder if Ben Hoskyns, who was Grace's own age and unmarried, is the reason she calls Charles Mackarness, a few days later, 'Poor dear fellow' and has difficulty making up her mind about him.

some little waiting I was joined by Laura & Mr Rake: St John<sup>24</sup> also turned up, but we parted with him before we went on to Cannon St. We were to have travelled down to Rochester with Mr Mackarness & Mr Hilliard (ACS /deputation) but we caught an earlier train & went on first, & as it happened they both came by later trains than they had wanted. We reached St Margaret's Vicarage safely; such a dear little house with a little garden, close to the Church. After tea we 3 went out for a little, and then sat cosily in the study, Mr Peake<sup>25</sup> smoking. Mr Hilliard arrived; & later Mr Mackarness bringing some flowers which (mostly) Laura & I arranged. After a while we, Laura & I, went upstairs to bed, and had talks in our rooms before the final Goodnight. Poor little Laura was very tired, but such a day.

### **Sunday 18 June**

Early service at 8 o'clock, to which Laura & I went. Mr Mackarness was there too. Mr Hilliard came to breakfast & he knew Lionel slightly at Oxford, & saw a likeness between him & me. He is a very pleasant man. Mr Mackarness & I had a little chat: he is very sensible & nice. It was a Sunday of special sermons in Rochester for the A C S so Mr Mackarness went to St Peter's to preach & Mr Hilliard preached at St Margaret's, to which we 2 went (an excellent sermon). Mrs Mitchell was there & came to lunch. It came on to rain during church, so the boy got us umbrellas, but Laura was afraid of her dress, so we were waiting when Mr Mackarness appeared & took me home under his umbrella, & then went back (I believe) with Laura's cloak. He is so thoughtful and kind! Children's service at ¼ past 3, taken by George & Mr Hilliard: the latter addressed the children. I went with Mrs Mitchell. George & Mr Hilliard went off after tea, & Mr Mackarness & I went with Mrs Mitchell to her little house & went over it, & then CCM & I went for a nice walk together, to the cemetery among other places. Laura & Mrs Mitchell came after, but did not overtake or meet us. Evening service taken by Mr Skinner, curate: CCM read the lessons & preached. Nice, hearty services altogether. Mrs Mitchell & Mr Skinner came to supper. Afterwards we sat in the study with a fire, & CCM & Mr Skinner smoked. Then George came back & presently joined us. A Mr Corfe came. Mrs Mitchell left. Finally Mr Bottome (curate) came, & Laura & I went up to bed. Had a little chat first.

### **Monday 19 June**

George had to go to London on business, and he was not home till the evening. Morning prayer at 8, to which I went with George & came back with CCM. I sat with Mrs Mitchell. Prayers at home afterwards. I had a p.c. from Beatrice to say Albert Toogood had been to see me, but went away as I was not there. She suggested my writing again, which I did, as well as to George Garrett, who has broken his pledge. CCM read me some bits out of Coventry Patmore's poems. CCM wanted some music, so we sang duets & solos. Very blowy. In the course of the afternoon Laura lay down upstairs to rest & I sat up there with a book & dozed too. After tea we two drove to Borstal to the Bottomes', where Laura went to see Mrs Bottome. CCM had walked on. I joined him & we got the keys of the church, Laura came & we went over it together. We all drove back & then I went for a walk with CCM down by the

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<sup>24</sup> Ralph St John Ainslie 1861-1908, Laura's brother

<sup>25</sup> Rev George Eden Frederick Peake, 1846-1901, Laura's husband

river, such a nice walk, he talked so sensibly. All the same I don't believe I ought to go out for walks alone with him. Mrs Mitchell, Mr & Mrs Albert Bill, & Mr Skinner came to dine. In the evening we had some music: I accompanied CCM & Mr Skinner: the latter played the violin. George is so nice. Laura & I had a long talk in her room & I wasn't in bed till very late.

### **Tuesday 20 June**

Morning service, to which I went with CCM, but I sat with Mrs Mitchell. I went out with George in the course of the morning to see his Café & the schools. Mr Mackarness read aloud before lunch to us – Laura & me, then George too, then Mr Hilliard – from Coventry Patmore's Poems. Mrs Mitchell, Laura, & I cut up cake etc. in the afternoon & made preparations for the Garden party. Finally the people began to arrive till there were 100 or more. Some of the people & I helped pour out or hand round tea & coffee, & afterwards came the meeting. First a hymn, then prayer, then a few words (short speech) from George, & then almost eloquent address from Mr Hilliard (the Rev Ernest). CCM & Canon Burrows spoke, & hymn & prayer closed the proceedings. We had a semicircle of chairs on the lawn etc to sit on, & the speakers stood on the steps outside the drawingroom window. The choirboys (who came to help sing) had tea afterwards. Mr Hilliard & I went down to the bottom of the hill by the river: he knows Edgar, & Ben, Messrs Ottley & Maclean, & has met Lionel. St John arrived while we were at supper. Mr Hilliard went away. We sat in the study in the evening & the gentlemen smoked. Laura & I had a talk in her room as usual.

### **Wednesday 21 June**

Being Wednesday the service was later, qr. to 12 I believe, so I did not get up so early, still I was up & ready before George & Laura, & did some writing before breakfast. It was finally decided we should go to Canterbury, so Laura, St John, & I walked on to the station where the other 2 joined us, & went by train to Canterbury. The Cathedral is very beautiful, but Salisbury stands better. One of the vergers was CCM's old servant, so was very pleased to show us about. Lunch at a pastry cook's, then George, Laura, St John & I went to see St Martin's, where CCM joined us after paying a visit to the verger's wife. It is a very old little Church indeed, & very nice. (Queen Bertha's tomb is there, & the font in which she was baptised.) ... Had a talk with CCM about poetry & hymns. George had choir practice after dinner, but we four sat out on rugs under the tree till quite late ... after we came in we had a little dancing: I had a capital polka with St John: then we had a good deal of singing & went late to bed. Talk with Laura as usual.

### **Thursday 22 June**

I went to & from the early morning service alone, but CCM came up as I was waiting to be let in at the Vicarage. Laura, St John & I went out in the morning into the town, for shopping & a few visits, St John & I stayed outside the house mostly. We went into the Cathedral which is very nice, & then into the Castle Gardens & up to the top of the old castle, a splendid old place ... After lunch CCM went away: he asked me to come down on the lawn



with him first, & told me what a pleasure it had been to him to meet me etc. Poor dear fellow he cares for me I know. He wants just to come down again if he can next week ...

### **Friday 23 June**

... we 4 drove to the Docks, and at Chatham, & were taken over it by Mr Bernays, an influential man there. We saw the 'Orion' which was to sail next day, the 'Ajax', 'Jumna', 'Pembroke' etc. Also the 'Polyphemus', a torpedo ship, over which we went: it was most interesting. We saw a Nordenfelt gun, & were shown how it was fired. We went there on such a nice little engine which rattled us along, & saved a lot of walking. We saw casting – a most wonderful process - & various other things in connection with shipbuilding. There were some convicts at work besides lots of other men. We ended up by tea with Mr & Mrs Bernays & eventually walked to a cabstand & then drove home after a delightful afternoon.

### **Saturday 24 June**

Laura heard from Mr Mackarness & he sent a nice message to me, telling about the Temperance Meeting etc. He said he should have spoken better if I had been there: but Laura didn't know if he had meant her to read that to me. She & I worked in the drawingroom, & then I sat out on the lawn in the rocking chair, & tried to make up my mind about CCM. George played in a cricket match v. Hoo on the ground near the river, not far from the house. St John & I sat out on the lawn after lunch & read, & Laura lay on & in the rug. Later we went to watch the cricket for a while: George & Mr Skinner were both playing, & we saw George bowl out 8 men ...

### **Sunday 25 June**

St John & I had a very pleasant talk, & walk round & round the garden: he is a very dear lad & I am sure there is plenty of good in him: though I am afraid there are many things on the opposite side ...

### **Tuesday 27 June**

... We two [Grace and Laura] went together, & enjoyed the recital very much sitting in the darkening Cathedral with light only by the organ. George was at home but busy over Café accounts when we got back. He had a terribly bad night, & was so ill.

### **Wednesday 28 June**

... (Cambridge beat Oxford in the match by 7 wickets) Wondered if CCM wd come down: George & I had a nice little talk about him after dinner, & George was so kind. We 3 went to Mrs Bell's to help entertain some GFS girls ... when we 2 arrived with Mrs Bell (she didn't stay) we found that CCM had really come. He was very nice, & I really shdn't wonder if things all came right.

### Thursday 29 June

Half past 7 service: Holy Communion. Charlie [~~'Mackarness'~~] came & into the same seat as me, & we knelt together at the rails. It was a nice beginning to the day. He gave me a book on Proverbs, 2 vols, which he had told me about. George went away for the day, cricketing. Charlie & I had a talk in the drawingroom & he asked me to be his wife & I said I would. O, he is so good & nice & clever, & already I trust him with all my heart, & I do care for him & hope to go on loving him more & more as long as I live... Charlie gave me 2 photographs of himself, & took Laura's 2 of me: of course we talked. We went to 11 o'clock service. Finally an envelope was sent off to Father containing a letter from Charlie to Father, a note from Laura to Mother, & letters from me to both. What they will say I don't know. Laura was so glad about it. Talk again after lunch, then tea & then goodbye, as my boy had to leave for London, & was going up to Scotland tonight. God bless him ... George came home & was immensely pleased at the news & proceeded to kiss me! Then I told Mrs Mitchell & Laura told old Lydia. I wrote to my dear lad after I came up to bed.

### Friday 30 June

Laura & George came to the Strood station with me & saw me off, & so ended my eventful visit to Rochester. At Charling X, I found Father, Mother, & Beatrice awaiting me, so kind & nice about my engagement. We went to the Edgecome Hotel in Craven St, Strand, for a little, & then out shopping: then to lunch with Aunt Emma & Kathleen & 2 females, & finally off in 2 hansoms to Prince's to see the Oxford & Cambridge lawn tennis match. Bob & FGE<sup>26</sup> were on the ground, dear lads, & presently play began. Uncle George<sup>27</sup> appeared & watched which was very nice. Of course he was told my news. FGE congratulated me when he found that he might. Only dear Bob said nothing about it to me. We had to leave Prince's at 4, when Oxford was getting the worst of it, certainly as far as Bob & Mr Russell were concerned. Home by the 5 o'clock train. There was the greatest possible excitement as soon as the news was known; very mixed joy, & poor little Violet wept. My dear lad had chosen my ring, & there it was waiting for me with my own which he took for a pattern. Such a lovely one. Talk, of course. Oh I am thankful & happy to have such a man for my very own.

### Saturday 1 July

... There was heavy rain and thunder in the afternoon: very sad for the hay. By second post came my dear lad's 1<sup>st</sup> letter, written on board the steamer going up<sup>28</sup>. I was glad to get it, & it was such a nice one. I hope he likes mine. The others did the Churchyard. We were delighted to hear that Oxford did with the Lawn Tennis match after all. Albert Toogood came at lunch to pay his Crystal Palace fare, & there were various payments in the course of the day & evening. 3 tenors, 2 alto, & 2 basses at practice. I gave Ted a bit of blue ribbon & pinned it on for him. I was very glad to see my boys again.

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<sup>26</sup> Francis George Ellerton 1861-1943, an Oxford friend of Bob/Theodore Milford

<sup>27</sup> George Sumner 1824-1909, Bishop of Guildford

<sup>28</sup> Presumably to spend time with his uncle George Mackarness, Bishop of Argyll and the Isles

### **Monday 3 July**

I had a few lines of congratulation from Frank, as well as from Reg: & also a very dear letter from Charlie ... All worked at packing up meat rolls & enormous pieces of cake for the Crystal Palace excursion tomorrow ... The 'Roma' has reached Queensland.

### **Tuesday 4 July**

We got up at an unearthly hour, soon after ½ past 4, & gradually – some walking, some driving – all got down to the station, 48 of us, between 6 & ½ past. Father, Mother, Marie, we 4, 9 of my boys ... John & Joe were in carriages with me every time ... We had some hymn singing. Some of the party arrived before the rest of us at the Crystal Palace, but we all got there safely. Of course we could not all keep together, but we strayed about in parties, more or less, though some got by themselves occasionally ... There was a Temperance Meeting in the Opera Theatre: I was one of those who got in & heard some of it. We heard Mr Basil Wilberforce & Booth<sup>29</sup> the nice ribbon army man. Several of us collected for the Concert which was very good ... We saw balloons and the fountains play, and saw numbers of bands ... The boys were so nice about giving us things, I had strawberries from Henry & Charles, & a sweet from Ted, who also paid for me to have an electric shock. We gradually succeeded in gathering together all our scattered forces ... and then we all went to the station. I was alone in a carriage at Clapham Junction with a number of our party... Home by about 12 after a delightful & successful day. Found letters from my dear lad, 2 to me, & 1 to Father.

### **Wednesday 5 July**

Mother heard from Grandfather, Auntie, & Aunt Fan about Charlie's & my engagement. I wrote to my dear lad. Showery. In the afternoon my 3 letters came: such letters (The Bishop of Argyll's & Mrs Mackarness' letter was so kind and nice.): Charlie had had my two first letters & was so pleased, his letter was so loving and beautiful: God grant I may be worthy of his love.

### **Thursday 6 July**

I was so glad to hear from my dear Bob, now all the brothers have written to congratulate me. Such a kind little letter from Charlie's mother, & Mother heard from her too. Showery. Ella & I worked at our Sunday lessons up in the Bishop's room. In the afternoon I had a most loving, beautiful letter from my dear lad: he sent me the prayers he promised, & asked me to write them out for him to use in my handwriting. I wrote to him again. The others went out ... Father and Mother went out to dine at Motcombe with Lady Westminster: they looked so nice. I worked at my Sunday lesson.

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<sup>29</sup> William Booth 1829-1912, founder of the Salvation Army

## Friday 7 July

I had my 1<sup>st</sup> wedding presents, when I went with Beatrice to see old Allen; a glass cream jug & sugar basin from him & Elizabeth ... A dear letter from my own dear lad by 2<sup>nd</sup> post. Practice.

## Tuesday 11 July

A rather unsettled kind of morning. I changed my dress, wrote a little, and got flowers, which Ella & I arranged. Finally Father went down in the close carriage (a showery day) to meet Charlie, by the 1.35 train, & as the time got gradually nearer & nearer I felt pretty bad: however Mother was very kind & sympathetic, & when Charlie did come it was soon all right. Oh it was so nice having him and he was so dear. We had waited lunch for him, & then afterwards he & I sat in the schoolroom & talked etc. He gave me a lovely 'Lyra Innocentium'. After tea he & I went for a walk, paid Holmes & Ricketts a visit, & then home by Milton ... I sat on the gate at the end of the terrace & we had a talk about our wedding etc. Theodore arrived safely: dear old fellow. We had a little music in the evening. After prayers Charlie & I sat in the storeroom, and he smoked.

## Wednesday 12 July

Maudie's & Lothian's wedding day. Beatrice was to be bridesmaid

Charlie read prayers morning & evening. Helped Theodore look out the trains. Father & Mother left for Buriton before we were up. Happily the day turned out lovely. My dear lad & I sat in the schoolroom, & before we wrote he read me the morning psalms & the 3 Canticles, & we talked about things in the Bible. Early lunch, & then Ella, Theodore, Charlie & I went in by the 12.58 train to Salisbury... At Salisbury we 4 went to Bloom's & there the gentlemen left us, & we stayed there a long time. Charlie went to call at the Palace. Later I went to the Cathedral where service was going on ... Charlie gave me a dear little Russia leather case for his photograph, & I eventually gave him mine ... Another present from him: a beautiful, parallel N. Testament. After dinner Charlie & I, Ella & Theodore, Mai & Marie walked about out of doors. Then we had music. Charlie came up with me to see Violet in bed & was so nice to her. He & I had a little talk before prayers: my dear lad.

## Saturday 15 July

... My dear lad read 'Onesiums' a book he is reviewing ... Found Seymour Tritton<sup>30</sup> arrived when we got in. Charlie & I had our tea, & helped mark out the lawn tennis courts. Then Father & Seymour played Charlie & me, & we each won a sett: my dear lad looks a dear in his flannels & plays nicely too. Poor Mother was not well. We sat in the summerhouse after dinner & Charlie & SBT smoked. Music. Charlie read to Violet as he has for several nights,

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<sup>30</sup> Seymour Biscoe Tritton, a school friend of Theodore 'Bobbie'. Later a celebrated railway engineer. He also features in the 1879 diary.

& I sat up there too. He & SBT smoked after prayers, & then we 2 said a long ‘goodnight’ in the schoolroom. My darling lad.

### **Sunday 16 July**

A happy Sunday. A nice number at early service, when my dearest lad helped Father – as he did all day. I had 7 boys in the morning & 11 (I think it was) in the afternoon. Charlie preached a very nice sermon on the Good Samaritan in the morning: it was much approved of. Walk in the garden before lunch. After lunch I got ready for my class as usual. My dear lad took Ella’s children for her, as she had a headache the day before & so couldn’t prepare: Violet came to his class. Mother was not very well all day. Charlie & I had a little time together before tea, & afterwards we went up into the wood together & had a talk: he talked to me about his past life. The rest had gone to Church when we came down from the wood, so my darling & I went together. He likes our singing so much I introduced him to John Corbin after service in the evening & to Mrs Wass in the morning. Walk on the hill. Charlie & I alone pretty nearly all the time ... Goodnight in the schoolroom as usual. (He read to & I sat with him.)

### **Monday 17 July**

Monday business. My dear lad read me the morning psalms & a chapter. A dress & bonnet came from Bloom’s, which I tried on, & was generally inspected. Packing. At his request I took Charlie to see the servants & he talked a little to them. After lunch Father, Mother, SBT, my darling & I left by the 2.33 train, all but Seymour being bound for Cuddesden. My dear lad was so sweet and kind to me: he looked so nice, & I felt very proud of him. At Oxford the train waited for the Bishop<sup>31</sup>, who came from London; he did not get into our carriage then but did at the next station, & then we came to Wheatley together. Father, Mother & I drove up the hill, the Bishop walked (by preference) & my lad rushed into Wheatley for a toothbrush for me & then caught us up & finally we drove to Cuddesden: the Bishop gave me a few nice words of welcome as we drove up. My darling lad took me in & we were received by his Mother & 3 sisters, Minnie, Daisy, & Flossie, & Lily – a little cousin. Minnie’s 2 children were brought down too. So upstairs to dress. Daisy came to see if she cd help me but my dear lad took me downstairs & in to dinner. After dinner the children went to bed: Flossie was very affectionate, dear little woman<sup>32</sup>. Talk & looking at photographs, & finally a nice little service in Chapel. Then my boy took me just to see his study, & say goodnight. I felt a little sad but I cdn’t expect it to be just like home. The kind Bishop kissed me goodnight. I was introduced to Miss Fuller. Daisy came into my room & was very nice.

### **Tuesday 18 July**

Service in church at 8; my dearest lad came with me (& Daisy), but I didn’t sit with him. I had a little walk with Charlie before Chapel. Flossie & Lily took me to see the schoolroom after Chapel. His mother most kindly gave me a little book of poetry. After breakfast I went

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<sup>31</sup> Charlie’s father John Fielder Mackarness, Bishop of Oxford

<sup>32</sup> Flossie was about 12. She died in 1887, aged 17.

out with Flossie & Lily for some time. Wrote in the drawingroom. The Bishop went away for a night. I went with my darling into his room & saw his books & had a very happy time. Father came later & had a little business talk ... After dinner Father & Daisy strolled about & Charlie & I sat out on a seat till about ½ past 9: he with his pipe. I was so glad to get my darling to myself for a while, & we were very happy. After we came in we went up to see Flossie & Lily in bed, & then I sang 2 songs, & Daisy played several pieces. My dear lad read prayers in Chapel, & then he beckoned me into his study to say 'Goodnight'. Thank God for my darling's love.

### **Wednesday 19 July**

Charlie helped Mr East by reading the lessons. We 2 came back together from Church. My dear lad took a great deal of pains getting ready a corner for me in his dear little study: he succeeded in making me very comfortable. He read me a little poetry. After lunch Daisy & I picked some strawberries for the Bishop, who presently arrived ... After dinner we talked, and had some music, & after Chapel I went into Charlie's study to say goodnight after a very happy day. They are all so kind to me, & I like them all so much. The Bishop is charming: he kisses me, as well as all the others. God is indeed good.

### **Thursday 20 July**

... I (formally) asked the dear Bishop to marry us. Father and Mother & the Bishop went away, Father & Mother to stay with Aunt Sophy at Gately & the Bishop to London. Charlie & I unpacked a box of stationery from London. He took me, later, to see Mrs Walters, the gardener's wife, & several of the outdoor servants. Wrote etc after lunch, and after Minnie & Daisy came back from a drive, we two went out in the pony carriage, & had a nice drive. There was a hard shower soon after we started, so we stayed under some trees. A pretty drive ... Walked about with Charlie in his surplice ... dinner ... Charlie & I sat out of doors afterwards, & he smoked, & read Tennyson to me ...

### **Friday 21 July**

Charlie took the service. Mrs Mackarness & Minnie went up to London, starting before we had begun breakfast. Charlie, Daisy & I had some fruit in the garden. Charlie & I spent most of the morning in his study, reading, talking etc. ..Charlie showed me some of the pictures he had had in his King's College rooms. He & I went to see various people connected with the place ... Tea & letter writing ... Charlie & I had a sett of lawn tennis with Flossie & Lily – (not on the same side). Service at 6.30, which Charlie took: a nice, peaceful little service. Charlie had a little cricket with 2 of the servants, & then we had a stroll. Music in the evening. I was sleepy & lay down. The Bishop, Mrs Mackarness, & Minnie came home.

### **Saturday 22 July Charlie's birthday**

I wrote a little letter to Charlie over night, & sent that & a 'Christmas year' to him in his room in the morning, he was very pleased... The Bishop gave me a lovely edition of Herbert's Poems: I was delighted ... Schoolfeast: because of the rain (now cleared off) the

tea was in the hall, in 2 relays; I helped in the first – the girls. Then came games on the lawn ...

### **Sunday 23 July**

... It was little Geoffrey's<sup>33</sup> birthday, so I gave him a box of ninepins which Daisy had got for me in Oxford ... Coffee at nominally 5.15, & then my lad went to read poetry to the servants. Church at 6.30. Charlie & I had a little stroll before & after. He preached a nice sermon on 'She hath done what she cd' ... Supper soon after 8, & all together. Afterwards Charlie, Daisy, Miss Gregorie & I looked at 'Picturesque Europe'. Mrs Mackarness sang several sacred songs; C and I sang 'Sabbath morn' & Daisy played. After Chapel I had a nice little talk with the dear Bishop about the future. Various goodnights to my dear lad.

### **Monday 24 July**

I just said goodbye again to the dear Bishop before going to Church: he went away to Cornwall. A nice letter from Theresa in answer to mine asking her to be one of my bridesmaids ... After lunch Nellie arrived, the Hon. Mrs Randal Parsons: she proved as nice & easy to get on with as the others. Later she & Charlie just beat Daisy & me at l.t. ... We went to see Mrs Smith, a poor woman who was burnt out of her house ...

### **Tuesday 25 July**

... After breakfast I looked at patterns with some of the ladies of the party ... Charlie & I drove into Oxford in the pony carriage. We were both photographed at Hills & Saunders, & did various shoppings. My dear kind lad gave me several photographs of Cuddesdon, and a lovely silver bracelet. He introduced me to Dr Lightfoot: & in Tritity Gardens he introduced me to Mr Whitehead, a Don: the Lime Walk at Trinity is lovely... Bernard Coleridge<sup>34</sup> arrived: Minnie's husband ...

### **Wednesday 26 July**

... a Mrs Thomas & I judged the work that was to be exhibited at the Cottage Show in the afternoon ... Nellie left for Sandhurst ... Mrs Mackarness & Daisy went to a Bazaar at Wallingford. After tea all 4 Coleridges drove to Denton to the Flower Show, & my dear lad & I walked. He was ?worried about a letter he had had from Canon Barry of King's ... My last night at Cuddesden for now.

### **Thursday 27 July**

Finally goodbye to all my dear, kind friends at Cuddesden, & Charlie & I drove to Wheatley ... On by the 2.50 to Salisbury ... where we found Father & Mother, as well as numbers of familiar clergy, as it was the day of the Bishop's Visitation. Mother & I shopped at Bloom's ... then we all had tea at the 3 Cups. Saw & talked to Frank ... Home by the 7 ...

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<sup>33</sup> Minnie's son Geoffrey Duke Coleridge, aged 5. Later 3<sup>rd</sup> Baron Coleridge

<sup>34</sup> Later a Liberal MP, a QC, and 2<sup>nd</sup> Baron Coleridge

### **Friday 28 July**

My dear Charlie & I sat together in the schoolroom & he read me the morning psalms & a chapter out of Timothy. Talk. Theodore appeared having walked up from Semley: he slept at Templecombe last night, not being able to get further on his way back from Byform, owing to a train being very late. Wrote many letters. After lunch Charlie & I drove down to the station in the open carriage, & he left by the 2.33 train for home: we walked up & down & talked before the train came. So goodbye to my dear lad, & home alone. Choir practice ... No goodnight kiss from my own dear lad.

### **Saturday 29 July**

Stores. Wrote to my dear lad by early post. Worked at my Sunday lesson. A lovely day, very hot ... The Band of Hope children & various helpers assembled in the schoolyard, & at about 3 o'clock we marched them up to the lower lawn, where we had a little meeting, recitations etc. Then came tea in the Rose garden, and then games etc until about 6 o'clock, when we assembled them in front of the hall door (Theodore ringing the gong), sang a hymn, & then dismissed them, after a very successful treat ...

### **Sunday 30 July**

I had a pretty, plated cruet stand from Lothian and Maudie. I had a two sheet letter from my dear lad ...

### **Monday 31 July**

I had two such nice letters from Charlie in the course of the day, one at home & the other at Winchester. Mother, Lionel, Ella, Theodore, Mai & I started for Winchester by the 12.50 train (My letter from Mrs Mackarness was a very nice one) Mother went in a fly to Mrs Utterton's, and we six walked ... A nice concert. Frank introduced Arthur Mackarness<sup>35</sup> afterwards; he seemed very nice ...

### **Tuesday 1 August**

... Finally my dear old Charlie appeared safely from London. Dinner, & then off to Domum<sup>36</sup>, where I walked about the whole time with my dear lad, looking so tall & nice. Charlie introduced me to Ruggles Brise, Captain of the XI ... We sang Domum of course; I had a card of the words from Reg. We could not find Arthur for ages, until at last we got him in Chamber Court before the final Domum. Any amount of cheering. Goodbye to most of our friends, Reg included, before leaving College, but Arthur came nearly home with us, walking between him & Charlie. I like him so much, he is a very dear boy. So indoors, & eventually to bed: Charlie & Theodore had a smoke & talk. My dear lad.

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<sup>35</sup> Charlie's youngest brother, aged 17

<sup>36</sup> Winchester College, and also the school song.



### **Wednesday 2 August**

I was down by a qr. to 8, & at about 8 my down dear lad came & I made tea for him & sat with him while he had his breakfast: then goodbye to him, & Mother, Harrie & I saw him off for Devonshire ... Mother & I left for London, travelling up 1<sup>st</sup> Class with the (new) Bishop of Newcastle & Mrs Wilberforce. They both spoke very kindly to me on saying goodbye, wishing me every happiness. To Edgecombe's Hotel, 20 Craven St, Charing X, & then out for an afternoon's trousseau shopping. We got a good deal done. Back to tea, & an evening's writing.

### **Thursday 3 August**

... out for a day's shopping. We got through a good deal of business in the course of the day, hats, bonnets, shoes etc. We had lunch at a pastrycook's, & tea at No. 3 Clarendon, Victoria Road, Aunt Emma's: Miss Touchet only was there, Aunt Emma being out (she called on us) & Kathleen away. A present arrived for me from Aunt Emma & Kathleen; some pretty brass things, & news of two more presents came from home ... Frances can't be my bridesmaid.

### **Friday 4 August**

A long & delightful letter from my dear Charlie: but he thinks far too highly of me...

### **Saturday 5 August**

... finally Mother & I left by the 10.40 train from Waterloo; Mark Beaufoy was in the same train & came up to speak, & congratulated me ... Salisbury ...the Bank Holiday had a bad effect on the train, & our's did not leave till very late ... Found all the dear people at home well. Presents from Mrs Graves, Arthur & Effie & Lady Rawlinson, & also a very pretty one from the maids. Very nice displaying my new things.

### **Sunday 6 August**

I heard from Aunt Sopley, sending me a lovely gold thimble & also telling of a breakfast set sent off for us ... After singing we most of us went out in the garden etc. We four sat up later in our room talking: I wonder what my lad wd think?

### **Wednesday 9 August**

Margery can be my bridesmaid, so I shall have 8, though neither Nellie Sanford or [sic] Frances Sewell can come ...

### **Friday 11 August**

Splendid post for me: my proofs came from Hills & Saunders, & were most of them very good, & I had a beautiful gold bracelet from Aunt Louisa ... I had a telegram from Charlie to say he wd come tomorrow early ... I had telegraphed to him as well as written, to ask him to play in a cricket match. Practice: all the team boys, Fowler & Edwin came. Another telegram

from Charlie to say he wd come late this evening ... at last between 10 and 11 my boy arrived from Gillingham. Talk, & supper for him. He brought me some sketches, by himself.

### **Saturday 12 August**

A grand carriage full went off at about 10 o'clock to Tisbury ... My dear old boy distinguished himself very much, making 46 runs, & bowling a lot of wickets. Our side got 88 & Tisbury 89, so they won, as it had to be decided by the 1<sup>st</sup> innings. Charlie got rather done up, so Seymour fielded ... Lionel & Theodore had grand catches ...

### **Monday 14 August**

Charlie had a talk with Father, & (partly I think) Mother about smoking etc, & then he & I sat together up in the wood & he told me about it: he was so dear and good...

### **Friday 18 August**

Lionel, Theodore, Reg, & Seymour went off by the 9.44 train to Portsmouth to see the cricket match between Past & Present Cambridge & the Australians. My dear boy & I had our Bible reading up in the wood ...

### **Saturday 19 August**

Mother & I went down to the station with Charlie & saw him off by the 3.23 train to Ottery<sup>37</sup>: my precious lad ...

### **Thursday 24 August**

Not a satisfactory day. I heard from Uncle Fred of a present of spoons & forks from him & Aunt Fan, so expected silver, & was grievously disappointed to find only electro: a very handsome present, but still -!

### **Friday 25 August**

...I had an anonymous present from Edinburgh of a silver pencil case ...

### **Saturday 26 August**

... I had a very nice present, a set of inkstand, envelope case, & blotting book ... The silver pencil case was from Mrs Bouverie: very kind of her to give it ... Bad accounts of the 'Fox and Hounds', I am sorry to say.

### **Tuesday 29 August**

Charlie sent me three photographs of Ottery St Mary: the outside of the Church, the inside, & one of Lady Coleridge's tomb. Mother, Ella, & I went in to Salisbury by the usual train: Nunney came down to the station with us ...

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<sup>37</sup> Probably the Chanter's House, Ottery St Mary, home of his Coleridge relatives

### **Wednesday 30 August**

...Mr & Mrs du Boulay sent me some very pretty silver Hungarian Peasants' buttons. I had a lovely Rocking Chair from the brothers & sisters.

### **Thursday 31 August**

A final letter from my dear boy from Henstridge, & he arrived safely by the 9.44 train. Various presents came ... I introduced Charlie to Nunney, & he had a little talk with her ... I had 2 lovely plates from Mr & Mrs Russell with which I was delighted. Also a handsome mirror from the Pignons. Charlie and I spent nearly the whole afternoon talking. Later he & Lionel went out for a walk in the rain. My cards have come: 'Mrs Charles Coleridge Mackarness'.

### **Friday 1 September**

I had a very pretty couvrette – alias antimacassar – from Tillie Dansey, painted by herself. Charlie & I had our reading together, & a good deal of talk too, so I am afraid there was no work done by either. In the afternoon some of the family arranged the school for the CETS<sup>38</sup> Meeting. .. I had a very pretty bag from the Browns ... In spite of the rain there was a good, & very attentive audience, including my 2 Henrys, John, Wilby, Charles, John, James etc. 'Fight the Drink' sung by us & Charlie was much liked ... Father spoke about me in his speech.

### **Saturday 2 September**

... More brass candlesticks! They & inkstands are constantly given me ... I kept the boys back to see which of my photographs they liked best.

### **Sunday 3 September**

I had a lovely silver bracelet from Miss Portia Smith ... Lionel preached in morning service, & Charlie in the evening. It was not bad having our banns read. Holy Communion: my dear boy did not help in that, so he & I were able to kneel together: coming home he read a prayer out of 'Eucharistica' with me.

### **Monday 4 September    My birthday. 26**

I began my day by getting a lovely little case of books – 'Gold Dust' 2 vols & 'Sparks of Light' from my dear boy, with a letter. Of course – under the circumstances – I didn't have a lot of presents, but Mother & Father (so said) gave me a locket & bracelet of Mother's: Charlie's Mother also gave me an inlaid locket. The lovely tea table from Mr Radcliffe came. .. Charlie & I read before lunch, & settled about the wedding service etc afterwards.

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<sup>38</sup> Church of England Temperance Society

### **Tuesday 5 September**

... Shopping in Salisbury, and I tried on my wedding dress amongst others... the ?forum gave some candlesticks & an inkstand! ...a silver sugar sifter from Mrs Bloom, sent with my dress!

### **Wednesday 6 September**

... In the evening came my dear John with a lovely present from himself & my other boys, an inkstand, envelope case etc all in one: I was delighted. He had written a list of their names & subscriptions. How I shall always prize this present from my beloved boys. (Beatrice went to bed early with a bad cold.)

### **Friday 8 September**

Beatrice had a very nice letter from Albert, from Queensland. A lovely day. I wrote to my beloved boy, & chose the hymns ... In the afternoon Beatrice & I went to Milton: we took a letter from Albert to his Father & Mother, & read it ... I paid numbers of farewell visits alone ... I kept my boys back & thanked them for the present. My dear Charles stayed behind & gave me his photograph!

### **Saturday 9 September**

... Hermann gave me a beautifully bound book of organ music with my initials on it.

### **Sunday 10 September**

In morning service I utterly broke down in the first part of the service, but I am thankful to say I got all right afterwards ... In the afternoon I had 13 boys: I gave them a last lesson, on Joshua XXIV. Then I showed them some pictures as usual, & then read them 'The building of the Minster', & 'It may be in the evening'. Finally I gave each of them my photograph in a frame. My dear boys.

### **Monday 11 September**

... John Corbin & Stacy came, & presented me with the most lovely clock from the village people: I was most delighted: John Corbin made me a little speech: a very nice one. My trousseau was exhibited to the Crosses, Bayleys etc, & to Mrs Benett Stanford (Mrs ??Pigdealer Snook gave me a silver thimble) & Lily. (Rose came up about my counterpane, & I said goodbye: she cried so, poor girl.)

### **Tuesday 12 September**

Mai stayed in bed a great part of the day, as she wasn't well, poor child. We worked at arranging the presents in the study, and succeeded in making them look lovely. More came in the course of the day, for us both ... decorations went on down at the Church ... Packed. I had such a beautiful letter from my darling ... Goodbye to my dear boys. Sat upstairs.

### **Wednesday 13 September**

There were great preparations in the house, rooms being got ready, packing and so on ... My darling Charlie arrived by the 12.58 train. By degrees other people came ... We had to sign the Settlements. Went to the Church & School. A lengthy dinner: we were 38 or so: I sat by my darling, & Theodore. After dinner Charlie gave the bridesmaids Iona Crosses, & me a lovely ring. We gave my new Father a double cabinet frame with our photographs ...

### **Thursday 14 September     Our wedding day**

A lovely day. We had Holy Communion at 8 o'clock, which was a very nice beginning to the day. I knelt in a seat alone with my darling, & we went up alone to the rails. A number of our guests were present. Charlie & Mr Maul had breakfast at Knoyle House, where they were staying. I walked back from church with Theodore, & sat by him at breakfast. Emma & Alice Lawrence helped me dress for the wedding & I went down to Church with Mother & Humphrey. Dear little Huppy carried my train. I had 8 bridesmaids, 4 in salmon colour & 4 in pale blue: my 4 sisters, Charlie's 2, Theresa, & Margery. Mr Maul was best man & Theodore, Reg, Seymour, Hermann, Frank, Arthur, & Arthur Heywood were the other groomsmen. The Bishop & Lionel married us. We had 3 hymns & the 'Deus', & all went very well: 396:299: & 440. Father gave me away. The Bishop gave us a very nice address. There were numbers of people in & outside church, & I saw some of my dear boys. Charlie & I drove back, & the rest followed, & after some talk & standing about we walked down to school, 2 & 2, to breakfast, after some talk & standing about we walked down to school, 2 & 2, to breakfast ... Mr Ainslie proposed our health (no drinking healths allowed), Mr O Heywood the parents, Walter Medlicott the bridesmaids, & Mr Maul returned thanks for them. There were 3 lovely arches, over the Church gate, school gate, & our own gate. We walked back home, I changed, & we left by a train at nominally 3.15, stopped on purpose for us. Garden party for farmers' people etc was going on when we left, & the neighbours were coming at 3, & poor folk to tea at 4.30 & to see the presents after. We saw John Corbin at the station. We went up to Waterloo 1<sup>st</sup> class, & then to Edgecombe Hotel, Craven St, where we were made very comfortable.

### **Friday 15 September**

A misty morning in London, but it cleared off into a lovely day. We left Euston at 10 o'clock for White Moss Cottage, Rydal, Ambleside, where we arrived safely between 7 & 7.30. At Preston where we stopped some time, I was in the Refreshment Room, while Charlie looked after the luggage, when I saw a face I knew, & it proved to be Bernard Tower. I was very glad to see him, & introduced him to Charlie when he came up. We came along by Morecambe Bay in the train: I always love to see the sea. At Ulverston we changed, & so on to Lakeside, Windermere, where we went on board one of the Lake Steamers, and steamed all up the lovely Lake to Ambleside. The scenery was very beautiful. At Ambleside we mounted to the top of an omnibus with 3 horses, which took us, by a lovely drive, to White Moss Cottage, which seems very comfortable. A telegram awaited me from father: they had no time to write: so kind of him to think of it.

## **Saturday 16 September**

There was a grand budget of letters for us in the morning: we had a joint letter from Mother for one. We had breakfast late. Afterwards we had a nice little walk rather beyond the wishing gate, & had a view over Grasmere. Lovely scenery. Reading & letter writing. In the course of the afternoon we went by omnibus to Ambleside, where we went to see Stock Ghyll Force Falls, which are most beautiful. Then we shopped in Ambleside & had tea at an inn, and then started in rain to walk back to our cottage: it soon left off though. The last part we came by a sort of coach. Charlie had another walk after we came back. We sat out in the porch after tea & Charlie smoked.

## **Sunday 17 September**

We woke to find it raining, but it cleared, & held up the greater part of the day. Charlie and I walked over to Grasmere Church for morning service at 10.30, and were put into a seat in a side aisle. The singing was not good, sort of nondescript Ancient & Modern hymns and Gregorian chants, the latter getting terribly out of tune. Charlie & I stayed to the Holy Communion, and afterwards my dear boy went to the vestry & offered to preach in the evening for Mr Fletcher, an offer he willingly accepted. Charlie showed me Wordsworth's & Hartley Coleridge's graves in the churchyard. Read & so forth after lunch, & spent rather an idle afternoon. Eventually we two walked in to Grasmere again for the 6.30 service. Charlie read the 2<sup>nd</sup> lesson & preached. We had better hymns, & I sat in the nave, not far from the pulpit. A nice walk home together in the dark.

## **Monday 18 September**

A lovely day. I found a delightful parcel of letters when I came down in the morning: a nice letter from Sam, amongst others. After our reading, Charlie walked over to Grasmere to see about a carriage, & I set to work to write letters. We had lunch early, & then started for Coniston in a nice little sort of pony cart: it rained when we started & when we came back, otherwise it was beautifully fine, & we had a delightful afternoon. We drove past the most glorious mountains to Coniston, where we sat for some time by the beautiful lake, & then had tea at the Waterhead Hotel<sup>39</sup>. Driving back we gave a lift to several nice children, 1 boy with a blue ribbon on. We went to Hawkshead on our way home: a very quaint little town where we saw the school to which Wordsworth used to go. (Father & Mai wrote most interesting descriptions of a Temperance meeting they went to in Salisbury, where Basil Wilberforce spoke: Father took the blue ribbon.) Charlie read aloud to me.

## **Tuesday 19 September**

Another delightful post: I have been most fortunate. Charlie and I spent our morning a good deal in letter writing. After lunch we had a talk, and then drove in to Rydal by coach, & went to see some beautiful Falls – Rydal Falls – in the grounds of Mr Le Fleming. We looked through the gate & over the wall at Rydal Mount, where Wordsworth used to live, but might

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<sup>39</sup> Now the Coniston Inn

not go in. We walked home by Nab Scar, a lovely walk; had tea, and then started to climb up Loughrigg Fell, which we succeeded in doing. We had a grand view, & I am altogether very glad to have been up. It was getting very dark as we came down again, and we were not in till past 7 o'clock.

### **Wednesday 20 September**

... A little before 12 o'clock we started for Keswick on the coach. Lady Holditch & her husband – Sir Edward – were on the box seat, and we all spoke to each when we got down at Wythburn (where Charlie & I went into the church – the smallest in England); we ladies mutually introduced our husbands. We had a beautiful drive to Keswick (with a lovely view over Derwentwater), where we could only stay a few minutes, as the returning coach was ready to start. We stopped in Grasmere coming back, had a little walk, then went to service, after which we had a little talk with the Rev Mr Fletcher, & paid a visit to Susie Hodgson's sister. Shopping, & home to our little cottage.

### **Thursday 21 September**

... the little low dogcart we had had before came, and soon after 12.30 we two started to drive to Ullswater, over the Kirkstone Pass, where there is an Inn, said to be the highest inhabited house in England. Certainly it is very high up, and there is a very long hill to get to it: Charlie walked most of the way up. We passed through most grand mountain scenery. We had our lunch by Brotherswater (Lake) & then drove on into Ullswater, where we put up at the Hotel, and had a lovely walk by the side of the Lake. Back to tea at the Hotel, & then we started on our homeward drive: we stopped in Ambleside coming back. Our last day at the Lakes.

### **Friday 22 September**

... We gave Susie Hodgson our photographs in a frame, with which she was very pleased. Finally, at about 11.15, we left in a waggonette for Windermere, to which we had a lovely drive. We had a little lunch there, & then started for Greenock by the 1.30 train. At Oxenholme we had to wait a little, so we went out of the station & Charlie had a smoke. Tea at Carlisle, and then we got into the Express, & sped away to Scotland. The furnaces looked grand in the darkness. We got into a through carriage, so had not to change all the way to Greenock, which we reached at about 9.15. We went to the Tontine Hotel, & were not sorry for our supper. Wrote my diary afterwards. We had a very happy time at the Lakes.

### **Saturday 23 September**

We had breakfast about ¼ past 8, and then went down to the 9 o'clock boat – the 'Columba' - & started for Bishopton. I sat on deck for some time, and then we walked about together. We touched at various places as we steamed down the Clyde & on, & at Rothesay the Dean of Argyll, Chinney Haldane, came on board, with a Dr Marshall of Manchester, & introductions were made. We talked several times to the Dean, & I liked him very much. The latter part of our journey was in rain, & in rain we found the Bishop & Mrs Mackarness – Uncle George &

Aunt Gertie<sup>40</sup> – waiting for us on the pier at Ardrishaig. Drove out to Bishopton, where the Dean & Mr Marshall eventually came on their way to Ballachulish. The Bishop showed me his study, the Church etc. in the afternoon. Mr Napier, 2 Miss Campbells, Mrs Campbell & her son Rollo<sup>41</sup> came later & stayed some time. My dear boy & Uncle George had a walk. Read & chatted. After dinner talk, and later Aunt Gertie sang, then I, and then Charlie. A happy day: I like my new Uncle & Aunt very much.

### **Sunday 24 September**

The day turned out beautiful, and we had a very nice Sunday. There was no post. Uncle Georgie did not breakfast with us, he comes down later. We had prayers at a qr. past 9, then breakfast. I took Aunt Gertie's small class of small children, as she was very much driven. There was a Confirmation, & some of the candidates arrived rather early. Service was at 11, shortened morning service: the Confirmation, a short address from Charlie, the Holy Communion, to which all 5 newly confirmed stayed ... Charlie – as Chaplain – carried the Pastoral Staff for Uncle Georgie ... I sat a little while with Charlie in the old library, where he was looking over his sermon. Later we all 4 went to call on the Campbells of Auchindarroch, & Charlie took me round the garden, & so when we got back to the house we found the others gone. We did not mind walking back for evening service at 6.30 when my boy had to preach again: he preached a very nice sermon about the Influence of the Past. Small congregation. Supper, talk, and hymn singing. No prayers, being Sunday. I don't like this.

### **Tuesday 26 September**

Charlie and I sat together in Aunt Gertie's little room and wrote for the 11.30 post. Then we had our reading, the Bible, and the 'Lyra Innocentium'. Letter from Mother before lunch, & at lunch came a long letter from Beatrice by 2<sup>nd</sup> post, telling about my dear boys etc, & a Salisbury paper, containing a nice account of our wedding, written by Frank & touched up by Father ...

### **Wednesday 27 September**

The day gradually turned out utterly and hopelessly wet, so it was no good thinking of our proposed expedition to Oban and Loch Awe. Charlie and I did not mind though: we made ourselves happy in Aunt Gertie's little room, where I wrote letters, and Charlie got on with his Guardian reviewing. After lunch we adjourned to the little library, where there was a fire, and sat there ... In the evening Aunt Gertie & I sang, & I played. The gentlemen smoked after prayers, and we sat with them for a little while.

### **Thursday 14 September**

... We started soon after lunch for Loch Awe, on the top of the coach, and had a fine drive of some 12 miles to the Loch, where we at once went on board the steamer, and steamed right

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<sup>40</sup> Gertrudge, the Bishop's second wife

<sup>41</sup> Probably 14 year old Rollo Frederick Graham Campbell (later Sir Rollo), 1868-1946



up to the other end of the the Loch, through very beautiful scenery We had tea at the Loch Awe Hotel, & then went for a walk & got caught in the rain. Back to the Hotel, & to table d'hôte at 7. I had a conversational man next me. It was very hot in the coffee room, I was not sorry to go out with Charlie into the cool night air. We sat in the hotel porch, & Charlie smoked. Lovely moonlight night ...

### **Friday 29 September**

We had breakfast about 8 o'clock, and left by the steamer at about 9. Some cousins of Charlie's came on board, Jack<sup>42</sup> and Mary Cotton (she was Mary Coleridge, a distant cousin of Charlie's, & his Father was Bishop Cotton of Calcutta) and we came with them down Loch Awe, & on the coach to Bishopton: they were very pleasant and nice. We found letters awaiting us, and more came by the 2<sup>nd</sup> post. We two sat in the little study, and I copied out Charlie's reviews for him: I began the work last night, & am so glad & proud to do it ...

### **Saturday 30 September**

I finished writing out Charlie's reviews for him, and they were sent off to the Editor of the Guardian, Mr Sharp ... Packing ... Soon after 2 o'clock Charlie & I left Bishopton to drive to Inverary, where Charlie is to take duty. Uncle George came with us as far as Loch Gair Hotel, where a carriage from Inverary was waiting, & he went back & we on. We had a lovely drive, some 24 or 25 miles altogether: we had the carriage closed, as it was cold & showery. We took rooms at the 'Argyll Arms'. Mr Wright – father to the girls who were confirmed on Sunday – came to the Hotel, & we went back with him to his house & saw Mrs Wright & the daughters. We were asked to dine, but got out of it. Miss Wright took us to see the little wooden church, once a photographic studio; it was very nice. Comfortable quarters at the hotel.

### **Sunday 1 October**

Early service at the little Church at 8 o'clock, only the Duchess of Argyll & Mrs & Miss Wright besides ourselves. The next service was at 11.15, shortened morning prayer, & Holy Communion again – to which of course I did not stay. Charlie preached two sermons he had preached at Knoyle, morning & evening, on 'Christ walking on the water' & the Good Samaritan: two very nice ones indeed. The weather was very bad, rainy, and a fearfully high wind, so that a clergyman with a weak voice would not have been heard in Church ...

### **Sunday 1 October**

Happily there was a great change in the weather ... at nominally 10.30 we left Inverary in a small steamer, and had rather a toss over to St Catherine's, where we got on to a coach and drove (at least Charlie walked a good part of the way) to Lochgoilhead, through a beautiful pass ... on board a steamer, and a two hours' run brought us to Greenock. We then went on by train to Glasgow, where we had tea, strolled about in the town, and eventually met Uncle

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<sup>42</sup> Sir Edward Thomas Davenant Cotton-Jodrell 1847-1917, later Conservative MP for Wirral, JP and Deputy Lieutenant for Cheshire

Georgie, who came to St Enoch's station by a later train. We all dined together at the St Enoch's Hotel, & then walked & sat about, until we two went to the other station (leaving Uncle Georgie to go by the Midland) & off by the night mail to London, via Rugby, Crewe etc, arriving at Euston about 8 o'clock in the morning. We had a 2<sup>nd</sup> class coupé to ourselves.

### **Tuesday 3 October**

We drove to Edgecombe's Hotel, had a wash & breakfast, & then went off to Waterloo, where we came across Minnie, Bernard & the children & nurse on their way to Ottery. So we all travelled down together, which was very pleasant ... At Semley we found Mother waiting for us, & we drove in the open carriage Home ... As we passed the schoolyard all the children were drawn up ... and cheered grandly. At home were all my dear people, the maids on the porch ringing bells, 'Welcome home' etc put up, & Grandfather, Auntie, & Amy also there. It was nice to see them all again. Talk & lawn tennis: Charlie & I were beaten by Theodore & Beatrice. He & I have Mai's room, & 'our' dressing room. I wore my bridal dress & sisters their bridesmaids' & Huppy his velveteen. We had some dancing. Charles & Wilby came about a projected band, & I had a little talk with the dear lads. Music. A levée in my room at night, sisters, Father, Mother, Theodore & my Charlie.

### **Wednesday 4 October**

... Charlie & I left by the 2.33 train for Cuddesden, Beatrice and Ella coming down with us to the station to see us off: it has been such a great happiness to go home for this little visit ... at Oxford station .. we found Randal & Nellie: he stayed in Oxford, but Nellie came on with us home. We had a grand welcome, decorations, cheering, servants drawn up, bells ringing, & all the dear ones to receive us, only unfortunately Father<sup>43</sup> had to be in Oxford. The fife & drum band & handbell ringers came outside the diningroom window & performed & Charlie spoke to them ... We 2 went out to see the servants when they were at supper, Charlie spoke to them & I gave them some wedding cake Mother sent. Miss Fuller gave us 2 marmalade spoons. A very happy homecoming.

### **Thursday 5 October**

We had breakfast at 8 & then chapel, and at about 9.30 Mother, Nellie, Miss Plowden, Charlie & I started to drive in to Oxford for the Conference, at the Sheldonian: we were in time to get good places, Nellie & I sitting in the sort of pulpit from which men speak at Commem. There were numbers of – to me unknown – clergy. The greater part of the morning, & part of the afternoon, sittings were taken up with the question whether or no to send delegates to the Central Council & so on, & we only heard the paper, & no discussion, on the Salvation Army. We heard Father's opening address. Charlie & I went to lunch at Christchurch with Archdeacon & Mrs Palmer, who were most kind: there were many gentlemen but I was the only other lady & sat with the Archdeacon at 1 end of the table ...

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<sup>43</sup> 'Father' and 'Mother' at this point are evidently Charlie's parents. In later diaries Grace wrote Father (C) etc to distinguish them.

We saw & spoke to Father outside the Sheldonian after lunch. I saw WJT<sup>44</sup> only a few yards off in the Theatre; we exchanged bows, & then he moved to another place. We ladies & Mrs Harvey (from Sandhurst) drove out at about 4 o'clock; the gentlemen followed later. Randal, Evy<sup>45</sup>, Lord Jersey, Col, Harvey, Sir John Mowbray, Mr Hubbard MP & Mr Mount all came to stay. Col. Harvey took me in, & I sat by Lord Jersey too: both very pleasant ... I wore my bridal dress. Music in the evening. A very happy day.

### **Friday 6 October**

### **Charlie has accepted the living of Aylesbury**

We started off – many of the party – at about 9 o'clock for Oxford: I went in the open carriage with Father, Sir John Mowbray, & Mr Hubbard. Charlie arrived - & Daisy etc – at the Sheldonian very soon after we did ... Daisy & I sat in the rostrum. Mother, Nellie & Miss Plowden came later. WJT again appeared, came nearer & nearer, till he came just behind me, so I turned round soon & shook hands: to my great relief my dearly beloved husband came up, & leant over the back of the rostrum, saw who it was, & WJT disappeared ...

### **Saturday 7 October**

8 o'clock chapel: Charlie & I had a run for it, but were somewhat late after all. The Conference people left by degrees: Sir John Mowbray took our letters telling the Aylesbury news to Knoyle, to post for us. Nellie & Evy left. Father's picture arrived & was hung up in the diningroom: it is not very good. Annie & I unpacked and arranged my things in my room Charlie went to Aylesbury in the afternoon to see Mr Lloyd the Vicar, & things in general Charlie came home a little while before dinner, and I sat in his room while he dressed, and he told me about Aylesbury. It is a large parish, 6600 souls: a great responsibility, for him – my dear husband – and also for me. Music.

### **Sunday 8 October**

... I did not sit with Charlie, but we knelt together ... After morning service we two had a talk over Aylesbury, about the income, sitting out of doors... The Provost preached, extempore: I would far rather have had my own husband in the pulpit. I read the Guardian in the evening. Daisy played, and then Mother sang.

### **Monday 9 October**

... I had a grand, long letter from Mother ... Father went off to Cambridge for the opening of Selwyn College tomorrow ...

### **Tuesday 10 October**

Very nice congratulatory letters from home: Charlie heard from Mai, and by 2<sup>nd</sup> post from dear old Reg ... Charlie & I unpacked a fresh lot of books for Guardian reviewing ... A

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<sup>44</sup> Presumably Walter Tanner, the same WJT who appeared to be the focus of Grace's romantic hopes in her 1879 diary

<sup>45</sup> George Evelyn Mackarness 1851-1896, only son of Bishop George Mackarness

curious muggy sort of day ... My dear husband went in the pony carriage to meet the Provost ...

### **Wednesday 11 October**

I had a talk, after breakfast, with Father about Aylesbury etc. A wet morning. My dearly beloved husband went off to London by the 11.2 train, for his lectures at King's Coll. Our first separation for a night since our marriage. I cut out some newspaper cuttings for him. After a rather hasty lunch, Mother and I drove to the station, and went by train to Oxford ... Shopped, getting household linen etc. ... went back to the station, & so home. Daisy & I had a little tea, & at about 7.30 went down to the school to a Temperance Tea. Between 30 & 40 came. I poured out coffee for some men. Magic lantern afterwards. ...

### **Thursday 12 October**

Daisy slept with me last night. Church as usual. Wrote. My dear husband came back safely from London ...

### **Sunday 15 October**

... To my great grief I lost the middle diamond of my engagement ring ...

### **Tuesday 17 October**

... Charlie and I left Wheatley by the 2.50 train for Aylesbury, our future home. We went 3<sup>rd</sup> class, and so did the journey cheaply. We had to wait a little at Risborough, and there met Mr Riddell, brother of one of our future curates: we travelled with him to Aylebury. We two walked from the station to the Vicarage, only a little way, & found there Mr Lloyd & his 2 sisters, Miss Lloyd & Mrs Morrell. I went over most of the house with Miss Lloyd while Charlie was talking to Mr Lloyd, & then Charlie & I went to the Church, which is beautiful. Back again to the Vicarage, & my dear husband & I went over it together: I was delighted with it: it is a dear little place & I feel sure I shall be very happy in it ... Home, very pleased with Aylesbury.

### **Wednesday 18 October**

Holy Communion at 8, being S Luke's Day. My dear husband came to my room afterwards & prayed with me as usual after Holy Communion. I helped him with his packing, and he left for London by the 11.2 train. I wrote a long letter to Beatrice, describing about Aylesbury (Church) ... Father and I went for a very nice walk together ...

### **Thursday 19 October**

...After breakfast I played battledore & shuttlecock with the children & Miss Fuller. Wrote. I was practising, when the door opened, and my dear husband came in: we were glad to see each other again.

### **Friday 20 October**

... Church at 6.30, and then Charlie, Daisy, and I went for a walk round the park as Daisy was cold. I sat with my dear husband in his little room for a time in the evening, & we had our reading. Daisy & I played duets.

### **Saturday 21 October**

Father & I went to church together in the rain ... Charlie & I sat in his little room, he writing, and I putting in newspaper cuttings into his books. Showery, so we settled to stay indoors. I read 'Scenes of clerical life'. After tea Father kindly invited me to sit in the study instead of being in the cold in Charlie's room, so I wrote for my dear husband (review) in there ...

### **Sunday 22 October**

Holy Communion at 8 o'clock: I felt rather faint at the end of the service. It came on to rain, but cleared again late. Mother would not let Miss Fuller go to school because of the rain, so she & I sat in the schoolroom & read, the children presently joining us ...

### **Monday 23 October**

I had a good post, as besides letters from home & Laura, I – we – had a lovely wedding present from SBT<sup>46</sup>: 2 silver napkin rings, one with C & the other with G on it ... Showery, so instead of driving in to Oxford as we had intended, Charlie, Daisy & I went in by train. We spent some time in shopping etc ... We three presently went to New College and had tea with Theodore in his rooms: Frank Ellerton was there too. Spent a pleasant time there, and then the two boys walked with us to the station. Two Misses Coxhead are staying here; 'cousins'<sup>47</sup>. I had my reading with my dear Charlie. Music.

### **Tuesday 24 October**

...At 20 minutes to 7 (nominally) Father, Mother, & we two started for Oxford, to dine at Christ Church with Dr & Mrs Ince: we arrived late. We sat down a party of 14; as a bride, I was taken in by Dr Ince, & Mr Lloyd, organist of Ch. Ch. was on my other side ... A lovely moonlight drive.

### **Wednesday 25 October**

I helped my dear husband pack, and finally Daisy and I drove down to the station with him & left him there to go up to London ... In the afternoon Mother and 'Cousin Selina' went out driving, and Daisy and I took 'Cousin Libby' for a walk on the Wheatley road ...

### **Thursday 26 October**

Daisy went down to the station after lunch, in the pony carriage, and brought up Katie Haverfield – her cousin. Soon after, they two and I walked a good way along the Wheatley

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<sup>46</sup> Seymour Biscoe Tritton, a friend of Theodore's, who features in an awkward episode in Grace's 1879 diary

<sup>47</sup> Selina Coxhead 1823-1915 and Elizabeth Coxhead 1825-1911, Charlie's second cousins

road, to meet my dear husband; I was glad to get him back again. He brought back my engagement ring, with a new diamond in it ...

### **Friday 27 October**

... Charlie helped put away a lot of wine – a long business. I worked, & talked with Cousin Selina. Later she, Miss Fuller, Daisy, Katie, the children & I had a game of Hide & Seek. Then Charlie and I went out and walked round and round the Park; talk about Aylesbury ... I sat with my dear husband in his little room. Church. After dinner we 2 had our reading in Father's room.

### **Saturday 28 October**

... Arthur came from Winchester for leave out, and was a very dear boy. Reg was to go home ... Daisy & I played duets. Church at 11 o'clock. Charlie, Arthur, & I had a talk over the diningroom fire after lunch. Later all the ladies of the party except Mother, even both 'the cousins', played Hide and Seek ...

### **Sunday 29 October**

A fine Sunday. Most of the College men were back, so we had a hymn & the Nunc Dimittis at the early service ... We .. just missed Theodore's arrival: he was in the house when we got in. He, Charlie, & I went all about the grounds after lunch, and then over to the College, which I was very glad to see again. We found the Principal there & had a talk with him, & later I was introduced to Mr Whittingstall, one of the students. Outside we met & I was introduced to Mr Napier another student, & also Mr Prickard, New Coll. Don: WHD had walked over from Horse path with him, & came to call. Charlie took Hermann out into the garden later. He stayed some time & left after coffee; it was so nice seeing him. Mr Currie the new Chaplain at the College came in to coffee. My dear husband read to the servants. Mr Furse<sup>48</sup> preached a funeral sermon on Mr Herbert Wilson, late student here, who died in Africa in September: he was a missionary. He was very much beloved in Cuddesden. Frank Haverfield<sup>49</sup> appeared in church & spent the evening. Daisy & I played, & Mother & I sang. Theodore & F Haverfield left after prayers.

### **Monday 30 October**

.. by train to Oxford for the CETS Meeting in the Sheldonian. Mr East joined us. We 5 sat in the semicircle, and heard well. The Bishop of Exeter was in the chair, & Sir Wilfrid Lawson, the Hon Conrad Dillon, Archdeacon Palmer & others spoke. It was a Local Option Meeting. We 2 stayed after the rest of our party, & left just before the end. Theodore was there part of the time, & WHD. Charlie & I went to Theodore's rooms, & then Charlie went into the town & Theodore took me to Studley's rooms & left me with him for a time, which was very nice. Then Studley took me to the Chapel, where I saw & spoke to CBL: & when Theodore came

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<sup>48</sup> Rev Canon Charles Wellington Furse 1821-1900, Principal of Cuddesden College

<sup>49</sup> Brother of Katie, cousin of Charlie. 1860-1919. Then a scholar of New College. Later published works on Roman Britain etc

he & I went into the organ loft & listened to WHD playing. Charlie & I had dinner with Theodore in his rooms, & then Charlie went to the Palmers' for Daisy, Katie, & Cousin Selina, while Theodore & I came on more slowly & waited near the Corn Exchange where the Evening Meeting was held. We got good places: Theodore sat with us, & Charlie went on to the platform. Father presided, & Sir Wilfrid Lawson, Mr C Tritton, the Bishop of Exeter & Mr Clarke Aspinall spoke. Very good speeches, and a large & very appreciative audience. There was a choir, but a feeble one. We joined in the hymns & songs. Studley was there. We came out just before the end, about 10 o'clock, & Theodore saw us into the carriage to drive home. It was fine then, but it poured earlier. A most interesting meeting.

### **Tuesday 31 October**

... In the afternoon Charlie and I went down to the station – walking – to meet a ? Reading pupil teacher called Bessie Simmonds, who was not well, and came to Cuddesden to recruit her health ...

### **Thursday 2 November**

Daisy gave Mother & me our breakfast early, & then Father & others saw us off for Wheatley, & we went up to London by the 8.55 train. At Paddington my dear husband was on the platform, & after driving to the Junior Army & Navy – where we did not stay, as we could not see what we wanted – we went to Shoolbred's, & spent hours choosing furniture, only stopping for a little lunch in between. Very satisfactory shopping I think. Back by the 4.50 train, & at Wheatley Father joined us, having also come down from London, where he had been for the day. Theodore was at the Palace, come to dine & sleep, & Miss Jones, sister to the Bishop, & two Misses Scott, daughters of the Dean of Rochester had come to stay. The Principal & Mrs Furse, Mr Currie, & one of the College men – Mr Hill, dined. Daisy & I played, Miss Scott, Mother (C's), Charlie & I, & Theodore & I sang: & Theodore sang alone, & I sang 'Children of the City' to which he fluted. Very pleasant evening.

### **Friday 3 November**

Mother, Charlie, and I left for London by the 8.55 train, Theodore and several of the others seeing us off. I was very sorry not to see the Bishop of Capetown to say goodbye to: he & Miss Jones, and Lady Ross – also Father – left in the course of the day. Our first business was to get a piano on the 3 years' system at Cramer's, where – curiously enough – we were served by an Aylesbury man. Then we went to Waterloo House for carpets, and then to Shoolbred's where we had lunch, and afterwards had some hours' shopping, getting kitchen things, linen. We had time for tea at the station before starting on our journey home ...

### **Saturday 4 November**

I did not get up to church. Mother left for Knoyle by the 11.2 train, and Charlie & I drove down to Wheatley with her & saw her off: she has been quite invaluable, we could not have done without her. I packed. Charlie and I drove down again to the station in the afternoon, and started for Aylesbury by the 2.52 train. We had not long to wait at Prince's Risborough, and at Aylesbury we found Mr Lloyd came to meet us, so we walked to the Vicarage, & were

welcomed by Miss Lloyd. We 2 & Mr Lloyd went to see S John's, the new Church which is being built. Church at 5. Then Charlie & I went to Poulton's shop to try & get photographs, & Charlie had a further walk up. I went in: Mr & Mrs Cooper came to dinner tea. There was a meeting at 8 about the new church at which my dear husband was present. Music from Miss Lloyd and me.

### **Sunday 5 November**

The 3 curates came to lunch, Mr Jeages, Mr Riddell, & Mr Carter. I read Charles Lowden's life. Charlie & I went to the 3 o'clock children's service: not a satisfactory one: Mr Carter catechised. Afterwards we 2 had a walk, & went to see S Mary's Schools, & what will probably be my district, & on to other parts of the town. Tea & talk. Evening service at 6, with a long sermon from the Vicar. Supper. Music and talk. I am very pleased with Aylesbury, & hope to be very happy here, though of course one wants some changes!

### **Monday 6 November**

We had not time to go to service at 8 o'clock, as we had to pack, and have breakfast, & then go down to the station to leave by the 9.20 train – which was late, though -. Both Charlie & I got photographs of himself from Mr Lloyd: he is a very nice man ... At Wheatley, Father got into the train which we got out of, & Daisy & the pony carriage were outside the station ... A most kind promise of help from (my) Father towards our furnishing. I went to Church Tea, at which Charlie & I were finally left alone. Mother, Daisy, & Katie went to a Capetown meeting in Oxford. Charlie & I sat in the study. He gave me some lovely etchings of Oxford; & a very nice photograph frame.

### **Wednesday 8 November**

Charlie had a very nice present: a silver gilt antique Dutch spoon. I had a handsome photograph book from an unknown friend. My dear husband went to London. I wrote. Early lunch, and then Mother, Daisy, Katie, and I drove in to Oxford for the Orchestral Concert in the Sheldonian, which began at two o'clock. The majority of the performers were professional but there were some amateurs, & amongst them Hermann. Theodore was in the semicircle, but we were in the area ... 'Sister Bertha' of the House of Mercy, Bovey Tracey, came for a night.

### **Thursday 9 November**

I went to the lodge to see Bessie Simmonds before lunch, & sat with her some little while. Some after lunch my dearly beloved husband came back, much to my joy. Sister Bertha went away: she is a very sweet person ... down to the school for the CETS Meeting, which had begun when we got there. The room was cramfull ... The Principal made a most feeble address, & then Canon Ellison made a very nice one on 'Stumbling Blocks' ... A number of the Palace servants joined mostly as Moderate as also Katie & Lily, & Daisy & Flossie joined as Total. I pinned on a lot of blue ribbons.



### **Friday 10 November**

... Father went off to London for the day, so there was a fire in the robing room, & my dear husband & I sat there together ... Katie & I went to the Lodge with a book for Bessie Simmonds, & then we went over into Father's field & watched a game of football, in which Charlie played ... I did part of a kind of catalogue of Charlie's sermons. Church. ...

### **Saturday 11 November**

... Mother & I shopped, and then went to Keble Hall, to hear a lecture from Mrs Johnstone of Tonbridge Wells, about the Prevention of Scarlet Fever etc: she did not tell us much about it, but there is to be another meeting, only for females.

### **Tuesday 16 November**

We woke up to find snow on the ground ... Katie & I kept up 1770 odd at battledore & shuttlecock after lunch. In spite of the slush, Katie and I went for a constitutional along the Wheatley road. We fell in with various college men ... I worked hard at the catalogue of my dear husband's sermons.

### **Wednesday 17 November**

My dear husband came back safely by the 12 train, from London ... Charlie and I went into Oxford ... getting some nice things with part of Freddy's & Arthur's wedding present money. Back to the station, and off to Reading, where we drove to S Mary's Vicarage, and were welcomed by Mr Garry. Dressed quickly, and then to dinner. Mr Garry had to leave while we were at dessert, & we two had a nice long time alone together, which we much enjoyed. Charlie read to me.

### **Saturday 18 November**

... to Winchester, for the O U Football match v the School. Reg & Arthur were on the platform to meet us. We went into Jacob & Johnson's, & were lucky enough to get a very good engraving of Grandfather<sup>50</sup>, framed, & one of the Bp of Salisbury, very reasonably... It was most interesting to watch the play, though the OU were thoroughly beaten, 11 to 2: my dear lad got the only 2 goals ... Moberly Library and then to Cathedral. Grandfather's tomb is terribly dirty ...

### **Monday 20 November**

... Spent a good part of the morning marking sheets, towels, & pillow cases ... There was an anxious account of little Geoffrey, who is not at all well ... We had a good deal of music in the course of the evening.

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<sup>50</sup> Charles Richard Sumner 1790-1874, Bishop of Winchester

## Tuesday 21 November

Neither Charlie nor I went to Church in the morning. He was not very well. I went down to the Lodge and said goodbye to Bessie Simmonds before she went home to Reading, much better for the change ... In the afternoon my dear husband played football ... Daisy, Katie & I went down the village, and took a parcel of household linen to a woman to hem for me.

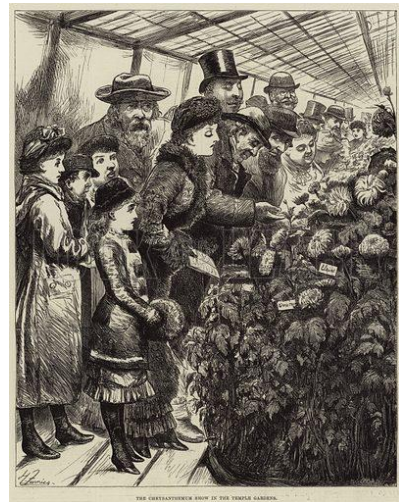
## Wednesday 22 November

My dear husband was not well in the night, & stayed in bed to breakfast. I took the best care of him I could. I went to Church. Later I read Charlie's letters to him, and eventually the morning psalms & lessons. Father, Charlie and I left Wheatley by the 11.33 train, and travelled together to Princes' Risborough, where we left Father to go to Aylesbury for a Confirmation, & we ourselves went on to London. We drove to 11 Westbourne St. Hyde Park W where Charlie left me with Minnie, & hurried off to his lectures at Kings... Bernard came home to dinner, & then went to Sussex Square to his Father's. Minnie & I had a quiet talk. My dear boy came home better.

## Thursday 23 November

... After lunch Charlie & I went (by underground) to Kings' College, & he took me to see the beautiful Chapel, and the room he used to have when he was Censor, the lecture rooms etc. ... We went to see the Chrysanthemum show in the Temple Garden.

(Right: Illustrated London News image from the Chrysanthemum Show of November 1880)



Shopped. Rained. We went to Sussex Square before going home, & I was introduced to Lord Coleridge<sup>51</sup> (left), my new Uncle, & his daughter Mary, & Mrs Martyn. 'Uncle John' was very pleasant ... Off to the Albert Hall, to see 'Elijah', but finding it had been the night before! We drove to the Lyceum & got ?-room places in the Dress Circle for 'Much Ado about Nothing' – Irving & Ellen Terry. Charlie had to leave me & lecture at St Paul's, but I hadn't to sit long

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<sup>51</sup> John Duke Coleridge, 1st Baron Coleridge, PC (3 December 1820 – 14 June 1894) was an English lawyer, judge and Liberal politician. (Wikipedia)

in the gangway, for a most kind American insisted on my taking his place & keeping it! Charlie came later & had to stand. Mr Bela S Buell was the man's name; he & Charlie exchanged cards. The play was lovely, scenery, acting &c. (Right: *Ellen Terry as Beatrice in that production*)



### **Friday 24 November**

... we got safely to Oxford, did some shopping ... and then went back to the station, where Charlie interviewed a new curate, Mr Beaulands, who seems very promising ...

### **Sunday 26 November**

... Mr East preached in the morning, & I was terribly sleepy. Bessie Furse & Katie Radcliffe came in after Church to see the chrysanthemums. ... Frank Haverfield came. Hymn singing after dinner. Our last Sunday at Cuddesden – for a time.

### **Monday 27 November**

... We girls spent a good part of the morning packing Charlie's books: Daisy & Katie wrapped up & I did most of the packing ... Daisy & I drove in the pony carriage to Allbury to call on Lady Caroline Bertie (who had called on me): she was out. Then we went to the Bennets', & found them at home, so we had tea there. We were fairly benighted going home, as well as being caught in a sharp storm, so we were delighted to get safely back ... I marked linen ...

### **Wednesday 29 November**

My last service at Cuddesden Church before leaving for Aylesbury. My dear husband left for London by the 11.2 train, and Father went in to Oxford. Daisy, Katie, & I worked at packing my boxes, with some help from Finch & Annie ... I paid farewell visits ... I went down in the carriage to the station, and met Mai by the 6.29 train. She seemed very well, & had been with Theodore & Frank in Oxford. Read in the evening, and Mother & I sang. Mai seems very natural.

### **Thursday 30 November**

I just saw Father for a minute or two before he went to Church, & paid a visit to Mother, who was in bed with a headache. Miss Fuller superintended Mai's & my breakfast, & then we 2, & Miriam & Annie started for Aylesbury by the 8.55 train, with a good deal of luggage. Dover brought over a load by road. We had to wait some time at Risborough, & the London train brought my dearly beloved husband to join us. We went up to the Vicarage, where were Mrs Simons – a woman taking charge - & her 2 little boys. We all worked at unpacking &

putting to rights. Shoobred's van came later. May & I had lunch with the Coopers at the Friarage, but Charlie could not leave, so we took him some lunch. Charlie had to leave about 4 to catch the train back to London, & left us at tea in the drawingroom. We 2 did some shipping before we left by the 6.7 train. Found Daisy & Katie safely home again. Successful day.

### **Friday 1 December**

I had such a nice letter from Albert.

I went round the house saying goodbye to the servants. Mai & I had breakfast, and after goodbyes to all my dear Cuddesden relations, we two, Miriam, & Froude started for Aylesbury ... And so I left Cuddesden, after a very happy time – a time I am most glad to have had. We were ~~joined~~ reinforced by degrees at Risborough by Sarah, Bessie, & my dear husband, & so all got safely to Aylesbury. Worked at getting things in order. Charlie, Mai, and I went to lunch at the Coopers', and then back again to the Vicarage. Discovered that no bedroom ware had come, & though it was telegraphed for & sent off, it did not come, so we had to hire for the night. Miriam left for Cuddesden, but Froude stayed for the night. Mai & I went out to do some shopping, & Charlie joined us. We had meat tea in our diningroom, our first meal there. Unpacked. Prayers & to bed.

### **Saturday 2 December**

After prayers and breakfast I ordered dinner, and presently Mai and I went down the town and did a good deal of shopping. Charlie & Frank hung pictures. Some lovely chrysanthemums came from the Prebendal, and later some from Mr Cooper, so we were well off, especially with more from Cuddesden in the evening. More work again in the afternoon. By degrees things got to look better and better, and more settled. Very cold & frosty. We made the 'Bishop's Room' look as comfortable as we could, with a fire, flowers &c. Finally Charlie went down to the station and came back with Father. (Froude had gone, before). He brought me a nice letter from Mother, & some provisions. We had a nice meat tea, Bessie waiting well ...

### **Sunday 3 December**

#### **Father's birthday 62 (Bishop)**

We (Charlie & I) gave Father a purse.

None of us went to the early service. Charlie went to the schools after prayers & breakfast. Mr Lloyd's Bible Class boys came – a good number of them – by degrees, but Charlie could not well take them for a regular lesson, so he did not keep them long. My dear husband was instituted in the morning service, by Father. Father preached a very nice sermon, referring to the new & the old vicars. Holy Communion. After lunch Father, Mai, & I went for a walk, & then Mai & I went to the children's service, & heard Charlie catechise, very nicely. The curates, & Mr Horwood (churchwarden) came to tea – Mr Horwood to meet Father. Evening service at 6, when Father again preached. Mai & I sat in the Vicarage pew, the first under the pulpit. Large congregations both times, & nice services – choral in the evening, taken by

Charlie. I sang & played in the course of the evening. Prayers in the drawingroom with a hymn.

### **Monday 4 December**

The Archbishop of Canterbury (Tait) died on Sunday morning. Mai's throat being sore she did not go out all day. Father & I went together to the morning service. I did some shopping (Mrs Cooper sent us some pheasants) before the district visitors' meeting in the Lady Chapel at 10.30, at which Charlie (of course) presided. I talked to some of the district visitors & shook hands with a good many. Charlie & I went down with Father to the station, & he left for Cuddesden. Then we two shopped before lunch. I did accounts &c in the afternoon, & settled up a little with Charlie. We had dinner tea about 6.15, and then came Evening service – a nice little service with a hymn – followed by a S John's Building Committee Meeting at the Vicarage, in the diningroom. Mr Jeages & Mr Cooper came in to tea afterwards, the former to talk about a Temperance Entertainment.

### **Tuesday 5 December**

Not a pleasant sort of day. Sleet & rain. I went out into the town and did some shopping in the afternoon, and then went to the Vicarage as I wanted to see Mr Cooper: finding that she was in the Lady Chapel, I went & spoke to her there: she was with the Coal Club.

### **Wednesday 6 December**

#### **Mai's birthday. 19**

Mai came to the 8 o'clock service. Charlie gave her a ? copy of 'Gold dust', & I gave her a framed photograph. The Archdeacon came, between 9.30 & 10, & after sitting a little while with us, went to Church with Charlie & inducted him ... It snowed on & off. My dear husband went to London for his lectures. I marked linen ... Later I went out & did some shopping, & then paid a visit to a sick old woman, whom Charlie wanted me to see: Miss Watkins; a nice old woman, & much taken with Charlie: she thought he had a 'heavenly countenance'. I read to her. A Frenchman who had been in the Infirmary came & I had some difficulty in getting rid of him, as he brought back a note I sent him with to Mr Jeages, as he was out: I finally sent him to the Vicarage. Mai & I went to church. Unpacked.

### **Thursday 7 December**

Mai & I went to 8 o'clock service, & then I stopped to speak to Mr Jeages: the Frenchman seems to be a bad lot ... I quite forgot that Col. Phipps was coming to see the Prebendal, & might come to lunch, which he did do: however there was plenty to eat, only I could not find the key of the wine cellar. I did some more linen marking. Mr Jeages arrived about six, & then Mr Kiddle to speak at the Temperance Meeting. After church (to which Mai didn't go), we all 4 walked down to S John's Schoolroom through the snow to the Meeting; Mr Jeages in the chair. Mr Kiddle made a very nice speech to a fair audience. A dissenting minister called Madden proposed a vote of thanks, & was seconded by a youth; we had prayers to open & close, & a hymn & a song. Not so nice a meeting as the Knoyle ones ...

### **Friday 8 December**

I got up early & gave Mr Kiddle his breakfast at about 7.20, & then he left for Buckingham. I went to Church. Mai & I read the Guardian. Later we went out shopping, & then to church for the Litany: saw & spoke to the Coopers. My dearly beloved husband had come back when we got in, but Miss Clift came, so I could not welcome him till she was gone. Joy to think he has done his King's & St Paul's Lectures. He brought me lovely copies of Beethoven's Sonatas & the Lieder; also some pretty mats. We hoped Daisy, Flossie, Lily, & Miss Fuller might come, but the snow (on the ground) stopped them. Two parishioners – Horwoods, I believe – called. When they left, we 3 went to S Mary's & S John's Schools. Charlie did some visiting. Mai & I unpacked books. Charlie was so busy seeing people that he had hardly any time for his tea. More people to see him after service. Then choir practice, & then Subcommittee on Temperance. Sunday lessons.

### **Saturday 9 December**

Mai overslept herself, so I went to Church alone. Charlie read Ignatius to us. I finished my Sunday lesson off. A basket of flowers came over from the Prebendal. Mai and I went out and did some shopping before lunch. After lunch we worked at getting the parish room in order. Mrs Horwood called, but only stayed a few minutes, & as soon as we could we 3 went to S John's School for a Band of Hope Meeting: I thought it was at S Mary's so we went there first, which made us still later. Charlie opened & closed the Meeting (he was only there part of the time) & Mai, Miss Clift, & I did the rest. I read them part of 'Little Tim's parlour'. Some re-arranging of things is wanted. Charlie went to see a sick man in a Marionette show. Church at 5 & an Adult Baptism. Miss Steward came back & talked after Church. Mai & I went to a glee practice at the Horwoods', & Charlie had to see various people at home. A busy evening too.

### **Sunday 10 December**

Holy Communion at 8 o'clock. Prayers, and breakfast: & then Charlie and I went to S Mary's Schools, & I took a class of 6 girls, rather a rough sort of girls, 4 of them working at the factory. I walked up to Church with them & saw them safely seated & then went home before service began. Charlie read the XXXIX Articles instead of a sermon, first explaining about them, giving a short history of them, & adding a little afterwards. Mr Jeages & Mr Riddell came to lunch. I had a boys' class at 2.15, 3 at first, then 5 more, & after they had gone Charlie brought in 3 S John's boys, just for me to see them. I nice class I had, & a good beginning. May God help me to do real good to these boys. Catechising in the children's service at 3: a very nice service. Charlie sang 1 verse of the Litany & the children joined in the last line, & vary every alternate verse, which sounded very pretty. Service at 6, when Charlie preached, & the service was choral – introduced by Charlie, as they only have had it on special occasions of late years -. One man went out of Church we heard afterwards. Charlie gave a very nice address to the newly confirmed (& others) after service; Mai & I stayed. He then went to see the sick marionette showman.

### **Monday 11 December**

Service. Household accounts. Mr Jeages & Mr Riddell came with parish accounts to Charlie ... I went, later, to the Gurneys' on Rickford's Hill, & accompanied Miss Gurney, who played the violin. They gave me afternoon tea. Charlie had a subcommittee of S John's, & settled about getting money for the Church. Service at 7: then Charlie had a run, & we dined later. An evening alone together: very happy!

### **Tuesday 12 December**

... In the afternoon Charlie came with me to Mrs Palmer's, & left me there, & I had a talk with her about the district she gives up & I take – Mount St & Brook Row. Then my dear husband came back for me, & came with me to my district. We went together to one house – Mrs Pearce's - & then he left me at the next we went to, Mrs Fellowes': a nice old woman. I paid visits also to the Johnsons, & Atkinses; nice people, & then hurried off to the station to meet Theodore by the 4.10 train: he arrived safely ... Service & a nice sermon from my dear Charlie at 8. Henry Bunning, supposed to be a bad boy (one of mine) was there.

### **Wednesday 13 December**

... Theodore & I went out and did some shopping in the town. In the afternoon we put the right bookcase into the drawingroom, & moved the other one. My big clock came & was put in the hall ...

### **Friday 15 December**

I was somewhat sleepy, & Charlie thought it would be better for me not to go to the 8 o'clock service, so I stayed in bed a while longer<sup>52</sup> ... Charlie, Theodore & I went to the Printing Works. Theodore & I went all over them, but Charlie could not stay nearly as long as we did, as he had to go to the Infirmary. It was most interesting. Service at 7, including a baptism.

### **Saturday 16 December**

Theodore left by the 10 o'clock train ... We expected Mother & Daisy from Cuddesden, but Daisy & Flossie came, Mother not being quite up to coming ... I took Daisy & Flossie over the house. They brought eatables & flowers from Cuddesden ... Charlie had some Young Men's Xtian Assoc men in the evening. I arranged flowers, did linen &c.

### **Tuesday 19 December**

... I went to the Church about decorations, & then to the Latin School. I went back to Mrs Horwood's, & she gave me more names of people to write to to come & help decorate. Mother & Lily came from Cuddesden by the 1.20, & had a very nice day here: they were very pleased with things in general ...

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<sup>52</sup> Grace would have been in the very early stages of pregnancy (Margo was born on 3 October 1883)

### **Wednesday 20 December**

I did not get up to the 8 o'clock service, but had a little longer rest ...

### **Thursday 21 December**

Again Charlie let me rest, so that I did not go to the 8 o'clock service. Mr Riddell was to be ordained by Father at Christ Church. ... Holy Communion at 11 ... Decorations again afterwards. We mustered a large party in the afternoon ... We got through a nice amount of work altogether ... Harry Bunning walked back with me, & was much disappointed that Charlie does not wish me to undertake the week night class ...

### **Friday 22 December**

Yet another morning Charlie wished me to stay in bed, so I did. I heard from Mother of 2 hampers having been sent from Knoyle, & during the morning they came. Christmas presents (not to be opened yet) and a goodly array of eatables; most welcome & acceptable ... Off to the Infirmary, where Charlie gave a short service in the women's ward (all the men coming who could) at 5 o'clock ...

### **Saturday 23 December**

Stores &c. From about 10.15 or so, I spent most of the morning in decorating the Church: Miss Terry & I carried in a lot of the wreaths &c from the school. Mrs Threlfall sent lovely white flowers. I helped chiefly with the pulpit, which was a very troublesome job. In the afternoon we had visitors ... I wrote letters & did up cards. I also had the flowers to arrange. Service at 5, which I forgot till about 5 minutes to the time. After service I had the linen to put away &c. Dressed, which I can only occasionally do. After dinner I worked at & finished my lesson, & then helped Charlie in his study, by unpacking books. His new bookshelves are splendid.

### **Sunday 24 December**

Holy Communion at 8. I had a budget of cards or letters, but did not open them till next day. I went to the Girls' School, but Charlie came for me to take me to the Boys' School, as the teacher of the 1<sup>st</sup> class was away. My girls were much disgusted ...

### **Monday 25 December**

There were celebrations at 7 & 8, but I did not go. I got up at about 7.20 & wrote the names in a lot of the Lord Wharton's Gift Bibles & prayerbooks. Before that I put a little holly about. We had not time to look at many of our presents &c, so we kept them till the evening. I gave Charlie a velvet sermon case & a card, & he gave me 'The Land & the Book' & 2 cards. We went to the school soon after 10, & I opened the Girls' School, and closed it, & played the hymns which was all that had to be done. My girls were most affectionate, several of them came to meet me, as I came. Some rain on & off. The morning & evening services began with 'Hark the herald angels sing' as at Knoyle. Charlie preached. I stayed to the Holy Communion. The curates came to lunch. We had the Knoyle chickens. I had 7 boys at my



class. At 3.30 was the Distribution in Church of Lord's Wharton's Bibles &c, with a short service. At 5 was evening service (not a large congregation): instead of a sermon Charlie gave 5 short little addresses between the singing of carols: very nice, both carols & addresses. Not back till about 10 minutes to 7. After dinner we had our present giving, giving presents to the maids & opening our own. We had a very nice lot, books, vases, brackets, kettleholder from Huppy, paper rack, & silver CETS medal. My cards were from all the home people, the Allens ...Mother, Daisy, Flossie (with a few lines) ... Uncle George & Aunt Gertie (for us both) ... Charlie smoked & we read letters & looked at cards in the diningroom.

### **Wednesday 27 December**

I did not go to the morning service at 8, & was glad of the rest, after working hard at the books last night. There was Holy Communion in Church at 11, but Charlie & I did not go to that, but to the Bennetts', where we had a private celebration for Miss Bennett: her father & Miss Lane were also present. The first time I had ever been present at a private one ... We worked at getting the study & diningroom in order, pictures &c, & got on well ...

### **Thursday 28 December**

...Household business, and flower arranging: I got a few pink primroses out of the garden ... Charlie & I went down to the North western station to meet Father & Mother by the 3.30 train, which was very late ... In course of time they inspected the house, & were very pleased with it. Dinner about 6.15. I was waylaid by Henry Bunning to say he & some other boys had been up to see if I would not have the reading class for them. I was obliged to refund them.

### **Friday 29 December**

Church at 8, to which Father & Mother went with me. There was Litany at 11, after which we showed Father & Mother over the Church ... Later we went to Infirmary & paid an interesting visit there. I had a talk with one young man in particular, with a broken leg: I said something to him about drink, & heard afterwards that he was brought in there drunk ...

### **Sunday 31 December**

A full day. Holy Communion at 8 ... I had a nice class of 11 boys, though there were some absentees. I am afraid Henry Bunning is not a satisfactory boy ...The singing went especially well in the evening: my dear lad is doing good in training the choir. Charlie & I sang, & I played a little in the evening. I read the Knoyle New Year's Eve Psalms at night. 39.90. & 103.

... So end [sic] 1882. A very eventful year for me; meeting Charlie again – at Rochester – becoming engaged to him, & then our marriage on Sept 14<sup>th</sup>. What cause I have for exceeding thankfulness to God for the great blessing He has been graciously pleased to bestow on me, in my precious husband. May I show forth my thankfulness in my life. My home too has changed: I have left my dear Knoyle home, where I have spent many very happy years, & after a short, but happy, time at Cuddesden, I have come with my darling to

my new home at Aylesbury. May God enable us both to do good, earnest, real work here for Him, & may He, in His mercy, spare us for many many years of happy & blessed married life together!

O God, help us to live nearer to Thee in the New Year than we have done in the Old, for Jesus Christ's sake our Lord.

Amen.



